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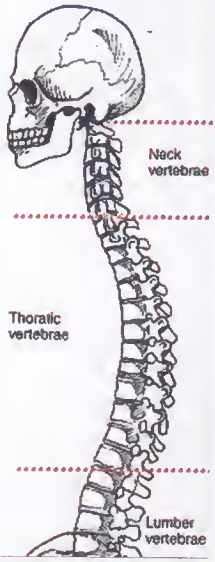

PLUS
Olympics: best Games sites

SPECIAL 9 easy steps to help you get more Net savvy (page 44)

- More email tips for Newbies
- Napster: what now for MP3 downloads?

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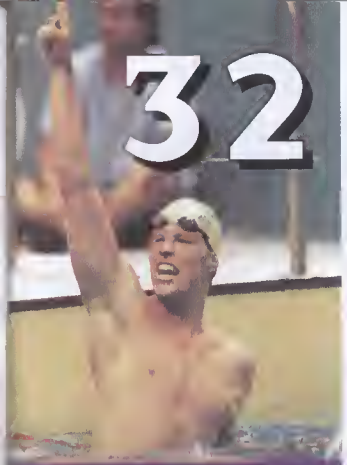

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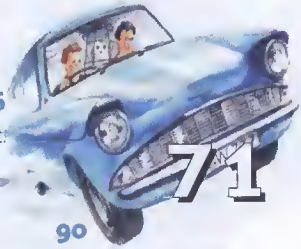

WIN $2000 WORTH OF BROADBAND NET CONNECTION! DETAILS ON PAGE 21

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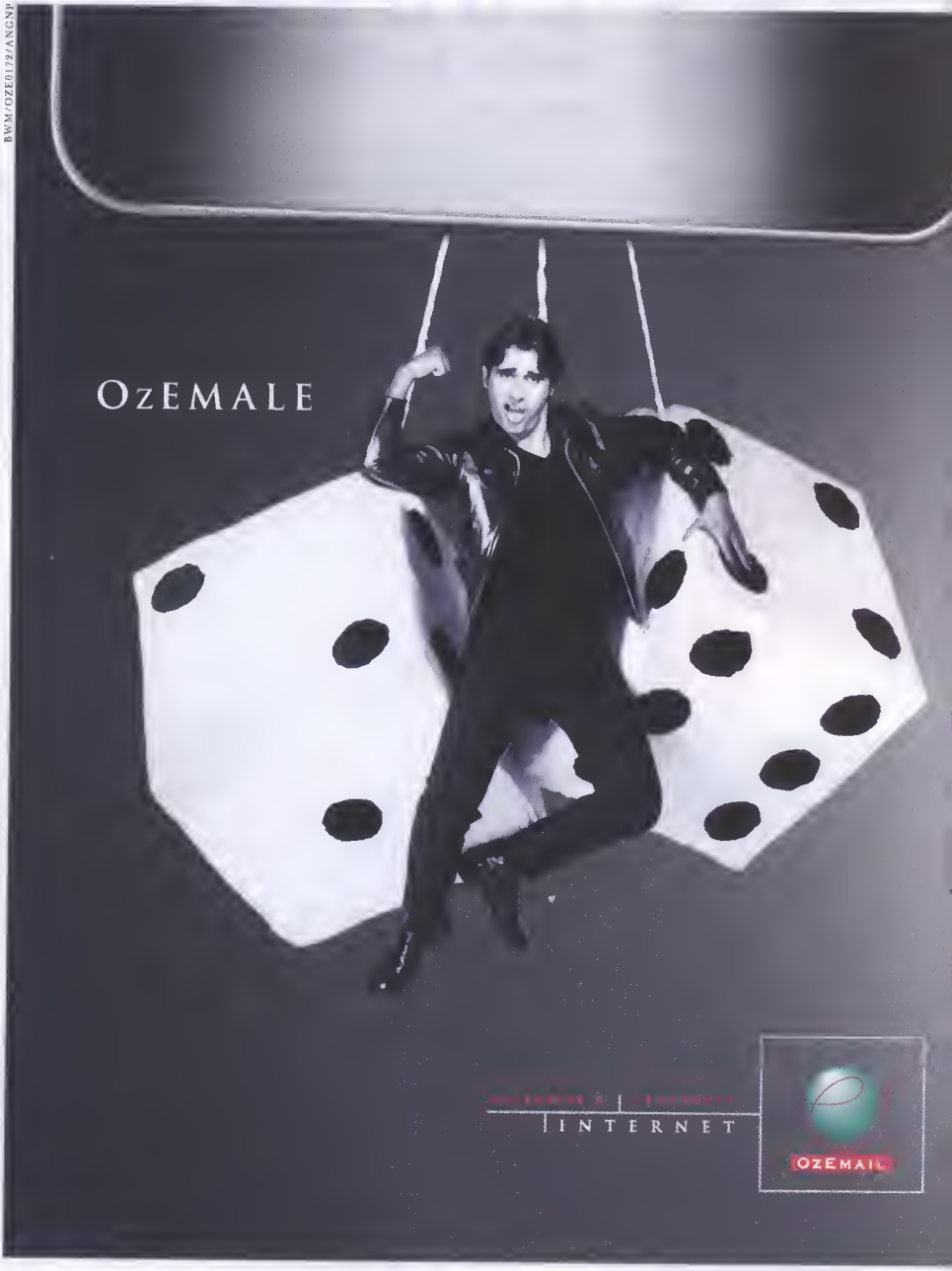

Nick Giannopoulos. Writer, producer, OzEmail user. Disarms and enlightens audiences through his film and stage portrayals of 'the wog boy'.

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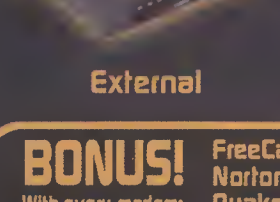

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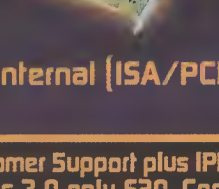
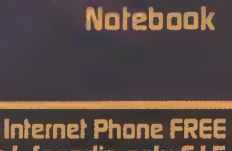


Internal (ISA/PCI)



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FROM THE editor

CAN YOU REMEMBER WHERE you were when Juan Antonio Samaranch said: "And the winner is...Sideney!"? Did we ever think the day would arrive? Well, it has, and to help you make the most of your Olympics online, we've got your sport covered in this issue. We've even cast an eye back to our rich sporting heritage to pay our respects to the heroes of yesteryear. There's been so many.

And it's also yesteryear, in a way, which has come back to haunt our politicians grappling with the demon of online gambling. Our analysis of Australia's current online gambling debate shows how little has changed since Tasmania defied the wishes of other States more than 100 years ago to run its own sweepstakes.

We've unwrapped ergonomics to give you a chance of checking how your computer habits stack up and what they might be doing to your health; and we've also asked our Internet gurus to offer some advice on how to become more like them. Get more Net savvy, starting on page 44.

Sites? Have we got sites! Writing, aquariums, cool things to do with your mobile, rock music, and some of the weirdest sports you've ever come across. No gold medals for these people. Anyway, gotta go, the Opening Ceremony awaits — on TV.

Darren

Darren Horrigan
EDITOR
darrenh@netguide.aust.com

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

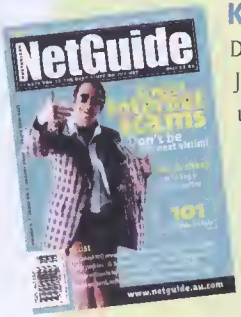
Here's an old Irish toast, with relevance to our Internet age.

MAY YOU HAVE...

The **HINDSIGHT** to know where you've been
The **FORESIGHT** to know where you're going
And, the **INSIGHT** to know when you've gone too far.

editor@netguide.aust.com

letter of the month



Know your downloads

Dear *NetGuide*,

Just thought I'd post a warning to other Net users who have been stunned by an offshore scam that is starting to rear its ugly head. It seems that the unwilling Netsurfer is conned into downloading a "viewer" for adult sites, but little do they know that in this download, your dialup number is changed to a number that is for an offshore ISP. I've heard that this server is in the Maldives, and charges $4.95 per minute!!. I currently work for an ISP and we are getting a number of calls about outrageous phone bills. Unfortunately, there's not a lot we can do, apart from break the news to customers that they've been stung. So Netsurfers, beware of what you download, who it's from, and what it actually does.

/ IAIN PRICE, SYDNEY

No drop outs

Dear *NetGuide*,

I refer to last month's letter from Brian McCann — You get what you (don't) pay for — where his experience with Globalfreeway is a disappointment for him. I've been with FreeNet for more than three months now, with vitually no problems at all! I can logon the first time I dial it, and I can stay online as long as I wish. It did drop me out once or twice within one to two hours, but all in all, it's so good I recommend it to all my friends. For some people, they said it will drop you out when you idle for more than 10 minutes. I use a FREE program call KeepItAlive! to keep me connected to the ISP. **/ JOEY LEE, ST. ALBANS, VIC**

Formatting, please?

Dear *NetGuide*,

I'm writing to ask if you can put in a section on formatting your computer. I know this term brings fear to many people, as it does to me. I have never formatted my own computer, usually leaving that to my son who knows what he is doing. I however, would like to be able to do this myself without having to wait for him to have the free time. Could you please publish a step by step on how to format. It would be greatly appreciated by not just me, I am sure. Keep up the great work. I love your magazine and eagerly await its presence on the shelf each month. (A little flattery never hurt anyone, so they say).

/ LEEANNE FERNANDEZ, SYDNEY.

We love flattery (when due) and we'll give the formatting some proper thought / Ed

Smarter now and more aware of scammers

Dear *NetGuide*,

Your article about Great Internet Scams (August) scared the hell out of me. I've been using the Net for about two years now and I'm mature enough to know the world is not all wine and roses. But I wasn't aware there were so many technical ways to be ripped off. Makes you want to know more about what the Net actually is and why we all use it so often. **/ PETER MARINER, ADELAIDE**

The **LETTER OF THE MONTH** winner receives a free copy of **Norton Internet Security 2000** valued at $99

SYMANTEC.

Schooling & surfing

Dear *NetGuide*,

I'm a 14 year old who sits on the Net for four hours everyday and you guys give me good sites to look up. You have helped me build my Web page and given my friend piles of links for his page. I'd also like to say that I do surf a lot and I love what I do. I am a creative person, not a sit at school person. I like to fix my site and surf. I have learnt more from the Net than I have from school. School is still important, but I still enjoy surfing. Since moving from NZ it has kept me in contact with family and friends back there.

/ JONATHAN MILLS, BRISBANE

Moderation in all things Jonathan, that's the way. / Ed

your sites & tips

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More sites for kids

DDear *NetGuide*,

Isn't it interesting to see so many great Internet sites for kids? I've got two sons and a daughter who have just discovered how much they can learn — and play — on the Internet. My husband and I were a bit worried at how much time they were spending there, but when they start talking at the breakfast table about all the new things they're coming across, it seems to make it all worthwhile. So when I saw your magazine cover for August with all the sites for kids, I couldn't go past. Thanks. **/ MELANIE GOLDMAN, SYDNEY**

Napster will live — forever, some way

Dear *NetGuide*,

I've always been one for sharing and caring and I suppose I'm a bit of an anti-capitalist. That's why my friends and I have no time for the rich rock stars and recording industry people who are running Napster out of business. The best thing though is that we know that if Napster gets iced, there'll be a new Napster to use not far away. File sharing is just a great idea, and you can't kill great ideas.

/STEVEN McKENZIE, BALLINA, NSW

Separating crap from craft

Dear *NetGuide*,

One of the things I have always loved about Netguide (in fact one of the main reasons I buy it) is the reviews you publish. Always sorting out the Web Crap from the true Web-craft. Keep it up.

/JULIAN RIDDEN, SYDNEY

Couldn't have put it better ourselves / Ed

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COMPILED BY CAROLINE WARNES & DARREN HORRIGAN

The judge can't stop the music...yet

Music file-swapping site Napster **www.napster.com** will continue to allow users to trade downloaded music after a last minute legal reprieve. The decision of a US District Court judge that Napster must stop offering copyrighted music for download was overturned by a higher court so further efforts could be made to reach a settlement in Napster's dispute with the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) **www.riaa.com.** The RIAA maintains that Napster is infringing the copyright of music artists. Napster claims it only offers the technology for people – at last count about 22 million – to swap music files. **See further comment on page 112**

Search for money — yours

The NSW Government has launched a website **www.osr.nsw.gov.au** where more than $122 million of lost or unclaimed money can be "re-discovered" by those to whom it belongs. Operated by the Office of State Revenue, the site lists more than 475,000 people who have failed to claim superannuation, company dividends, employee bonuses, and trust accounts. The largest unclaimed amount is a whopping $623,045, listed in the name of Andrew Weimer Rose. There are two other amounts exceeding $500,000, 17 of more than $250,000, and 29 of more than $200,000.

Viruses and crackers to cost businesses US$1.6 trillion

Viruses and other destructive actions by computer crackers will cost businesses worldwide more than US$1.6 trillion this year alone, as almost 40,000 person years of productivity will be lost to computer downtime. One person year is defined as one person working a 24-hour-day, 365-day shift. The survey of 4,900 IT professionals in 30 countries was carried out by Information Week Research **www.informationweek.com** and PricewaterhouseCoopers **www.pwcgloabl.com.**

High-tech often means high-stress

Email is one of the major causes of stress in the workforce, according to a study by recruitment company Morgan & Banks **www.morganandbanks.com.au** . M&B Director, Peter George, said email's rise in popularity over the past couple of years has led to a situation of information overload. "People are receiving up to 100 emails a day, flooding us with a whole range of information we don't want and don't need," he said. In the study of 2000 employees, the only "stress magnets" to rate higher than email were corporate mergers and starting a new job.

e-books At Random

The world's biggest English-language book publisher, Random House, has launched a unit for electronic books called AtRandom **www.randomhouse.com/atrandom**. The online move by Random House comes as traditional publishers face the challenges of selling books in electronic form. "Nobody knows where it's going," said Jonathan Karp, publisher of AtRandom. Mr Karp said electronic books and reading online "could go the way of the Walkman or they could go the way of the eight-track tape. Nobody knows." The AtRandom books will be sold online as digital books or in single copies printed on demand and available at bookstores. They will also be available at electronic book outlets such as Amazon.com **www.amazon.com** and Fatbrain.com **www.fatbrain.com**. The online titles will be published starting early 2001.

Aussie businesses face security threats

The majority of Australian businesses are lagging far behind the rest of the world in the security stakes, according to a visiting security expert. The vice-president of security at Computer Associates International **www.ca.com**, Simon Perry, claims that as opposed to an "enormous level of awareness" in the United States and Europe in regards to online safety, Australian companies are yet to realize the full impact of the threat. He also claims that 90% of companies connected to the Internet are open to cybercrime in some form. Perry thinks this attitude among Australian businesses is cultivated by a perception that hackers are only going to hit high-profile international companies. "This is very dangerous thinking," he says. "There is no such thing as an "Australian Internet"."

Net misdiagnosis leads to suicide

An elderly couple from rural NSW committed suicide after an Internet health site convinced them that the wife may have had terminal cancer, according to the Australian Medical Association **www.ama.com.au**. The AMA said an autopsy showed the woman did not have the disease. "The couple didn't want to be separated and their lives ended prematurely because of misdiagnosis," an AMA spokesman said," The AMA said it released details of the tragedy to highlight the dangers of using the Internet for self-diagnosis and self-prescription. GPs across Australia are alarmed by the growing number of "do-it-yourself medical handymen." The AMA said that while some were very reliable, many were "total bunkum, pushing snake medicine often to the most gullible and needy".

BT Internet

Don't get mad, get cracking

A cracker angry about his service from British Telecommunications (BT) brought down its **www.btinternet.com** by disallowing access to the site recently. Shortly after the attacks, the cracker sent this note to the UK media to explain his actions: "This is my payback to BT for ripping this country off. I'm tired of being cut off the Net at 12 just because I have a cable line."

Tracking down missing mobiles

An Australian Web site has launched a service to match lost or stolen phones with their owners. PhoneChoice.com.au **www.phonechoice.com.au** claims to be an Australian first. "There has never been a way to track lost or stolen mobile phones and no way to get them back," said Lisa Pennell of Phonechoice. "This is something the industry has needed for a long time." Phone carriers are required to feed the electronic registration numbers of lost and stolen mobiles into a central database, which PhoneChoice.com.au then accesses to match the phones with its paying customers. The site even has the co-operation of Australia Post to courier the sets back to their owners.

find a phone

helping bring lost phones home

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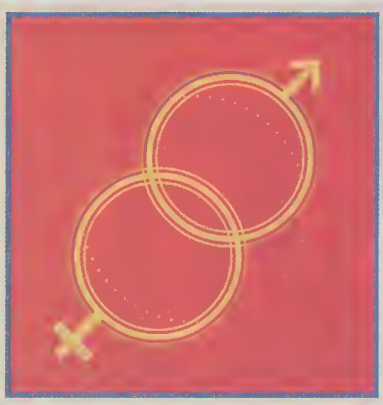
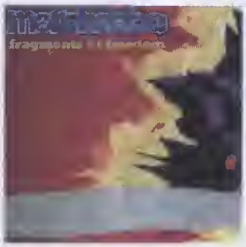


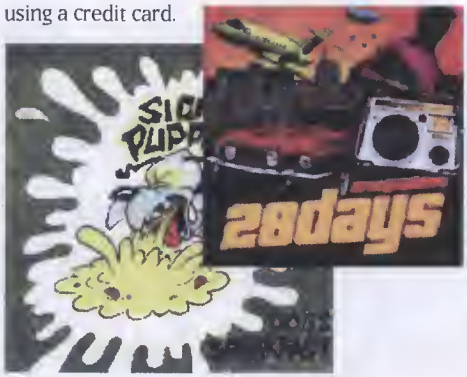
World's First Digital Wedding in Australia

Marriages might be made in heaven but now, they can also be performed in cyberspace. Soon after the Victorian Government recently passed legislation accepting the lodgment of electronic forms of all kinds online, a Melbourne couple tied the knot by signing the world's first digital wedding certificate. After their wedding, Brian Scott and Julie Lord said: "With digital encryption, our wedding certificate can be easily lodged with the proper government office, stored and retrieved electronically, without fear that it will be destroyed, modified or forged". How romantic.

More ease for more noise



To ease credit card security concerns, NoizeNet **www.noizenet.com.au**, the online music hub aimed at the youth market, has become the first Australian music e-tailer to offer BPAY as a payment option for customers at its Web site, allowing people to buy any of its library of 400,000 CDs without using a credit card.



123@123.123

In an effort to eliminate complicated character-based Web addresses for WAP or mobile Internet users, UK-based Bango.net **www.bango.net** has launched a numeric-based domain name system. The idea is designed to save time for mobile and WAP phone users who rely on a numeric keyboard. Users will rent out the addresses from Bango.net for about $35 per year. The company says there is also a need in countries which do not have English as their first language.

WIN A BROADBAND INTERNET CONNECTION

Over $2000 in prize value!!!

This month Access 1 and *NetGuide* are offering two lucky readers the chance to each win a high speed Internet connection plus 3 months free access. Imagine surfing with blistering downoad speeds up to four times faster than a standard 56kbps Internet connection, plus TV style channels direct to your PC.

Each prize includes:

- A PCI Satellite Receiver Card — requires 1 spare PCI slot in your PC (supported by Win95, Win98, WinNT4 with SP4 or above).
- 90cm satellite dish, mount and cabling (suitable for most areas, some areas may require a larger dish)
- Installation and desktop configuration of the service by a trained technician (extra charges may apply if outside main Metropolitan areas).
- Free unlimited hours and 750 Mb download allowance for 3 months

Entering is easy:

There are three easy ways to enter the competition:

1. Go to the website at **www.access1.com.au** and click on the WIN button – simply fill in the entry form and you're in the draw.
2. Subscribe to *NetGuide* on the subscard or online and you will be automatically entered.
3. Subscribe to Access 1 this month and you are also entered and will be refunded the value of the prize.

Please refer to **www.netguide.com.au/win/broadband/** for the terms and conditions of this competition.

WHY WAIT WHEN YOU CAN access1

ICANN

Olympic telecommuting Yahoo! Australia & NZ **www.yahoo.com.au** has launched a site to advise businesses and individuals about the various free Internet tools available to telecommuters eager to avoid Olympic travel hassles.

Bad service costs big time Poor online service cost Internet retailers a combined US$6.1 billion in sales last year, a figure which could balloon to more than $173 billion, according to a report from market analysis firm Datamonitor **www.datamonitor.com**

Chat & snap Samsung Electronics **samsungelectronics.com** has developed a mobile phone that takes digital pictures. The 11cm-long unit comes with a 4cm LCD display that has camera functions built in for 20 snaps.

Online Pottermania *Harry Potter and The Goblet of Fire* has become the biggest-selling book in e-tailing's short history with more than 400,000 copies sold worldwide by Amazon.com **www.amazon.com** alone.

Another growing ISP One of Australia's longest-serving, independent ISPs, Netspace Online Systems **www.netspace.com.au** has bought the operations of a Brisbane-based ISP, boosting its customer base to more than 30,000.

Ananova sold The wildly popular Internet-based virtual newsreader, Ananova **www.ananova.com** has been sold to British telecommunication company Orange by her creators, the Press Association, for $144 million.

A BIG crack Germany's biggest email provider, GMX, suffered its third setback in recent weeks when a cracker changed 1,625 user passwords and deleted all the emails of about 118,000 users.

Shop WAP Online e-tailer dstore.com.au **www.dstore.com.au**, and Telstra, **www.telstra.com** will deliver online shopping to consumers through telstra.com using Wireless Application Protocol (WAP) enabled mobile phones.

Domain name relief The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) **www.icann.org**, the group that oversees the Internet addressing system, has cleared the way for several new Net suffixes to alleviate the burden on .com, .net and .org by year's end.

Jail for crackers Computer cracking is likely to become punishable by imprisonment under new legislation being introduced by the New Zealand Government. Penalties for criminal cracking would most likely range from fines to two years in prison.

Spend a $, get a $

OptusNet, the Cable & Wireless Optus ISP **www.optusnet.excite.com.au**, now claims more than 200,000 dial-up Internet customers making it the number three ISP in Australia after Telstra Big Pond and OzEmail. OptusNet celebrated the milestone this month by announcing a new offer to encourage Australians to shop online — the Dollar For Dollar Deal. Each month until December, OptusNet will give customers an online shopping voucher equal to the full paid value of their monthly access fee, to be spent at leading Australian e-tail sites. Current OptusNet monthly access fees are priced between $10.65 and $42.80.

Seismic mergers

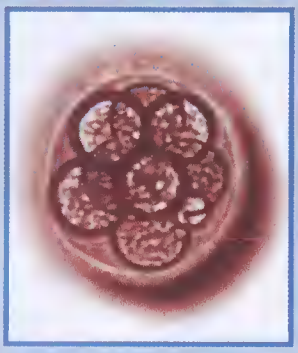
The merger of the international operations of Excite@Home **www.excite@home.com** with chello broadband **www.chello.com** has created the largest broadband Internet company outside the US. The new entity, Excite Chello, unites the world's largest high-speed Internet provider, Excite@Home, and chello, the leading broadband company in Europe. For Australian customers of the Optus@Home service through the Excite@Home & Optus joint venture, it's business as usual according to local company executives.

All you can click from the new AOL

AOL Australia **www.aol.com.au**, the joint venture between America Online **www.aol.com** and AAPT Ltd **www.aapt.com.au**, Australia's third largest telecommunications company, has released a new unlimited use pricing plan for Australian consumers of $24.95 per month, including GST. "The Net Made Easy" is AOL's big marketing push to recruit and hold more Internet customers.

NEXT MONTH *NetGuide* examines the various heavy user Internet pricing plans on offer from Australia's leading ISPs. We'll compare "apples to apples" so you can see at a glance what plan is best for you.

IVF and the right to become a mum



While the Federal Government decides what it might do next over the issue of whether single women or lesbians should be allowed access to fertility treatment, the Internet remains a mine of information on the wonders of in-vitro fertilisation. IVF.com **www.ivf.com** takes a clinical and scientific look at what the process involves and how women can go about choosing the right doctor. IVF Connections **www.ivfconnections.com** is a collection of newsgroups, chat rooms and mailing lists teeming with people keen to share their experience and offer advice. And for a local angle on the treatments and issues, City West IVF **www.ivf.com.au**, is the site of one of Australia's leading IVF clinics in Sydney.

Australia's alternative Government

The Australian Labor Party **www.alp.org** has held its annual conference once again, debating and forming policy on how best to run the country should it win the next election. All the latest from the gabfest is at the party's site, including Kim Beazley's alternative Prime Ministerial address. Just why the ALP is so fond of Hobart **www.tased.edu.au/tot/s/hobart.html**, as a venue chilly in July is anyone's guess.

Olympics not just about sport

That the world's elite athletes have gathered in Sydney for the Olympic Games **www.olympics.com** somewhat overshadows the fact that the truly magnificent Olympic Arts Festival, starring the world renowned Australian Ballet **www.austballet.telstra.com.au** and the Sydney Dance Company **www.sydneydance.com.au** has already been charming the world for some weeks.

Book the network online

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- Canberra
- Coffs Harbour
- Glen Innes
- Gold Coast
- Inverell
- Kempsey
- Melbourne
- Newcastle
- Port Macquarie
- Sydney
- Snowy Mountains
- Tamworth

MAD

www.impulseairlines.com.au

Cement your customer relationship

It's the question that everyone is asking. How do I build long term, strategic relationships with my customers on the Internet?

WebCentral Portal Builder gives you the ability to provide your customers with "Your Brand" Internet Access, "Your Brand" Business Email, "Your Brand" Web Services, and "Your Brand" ASP (Application Services). You can bundle it with your existing products OR use it to generate an on going revenue stream.

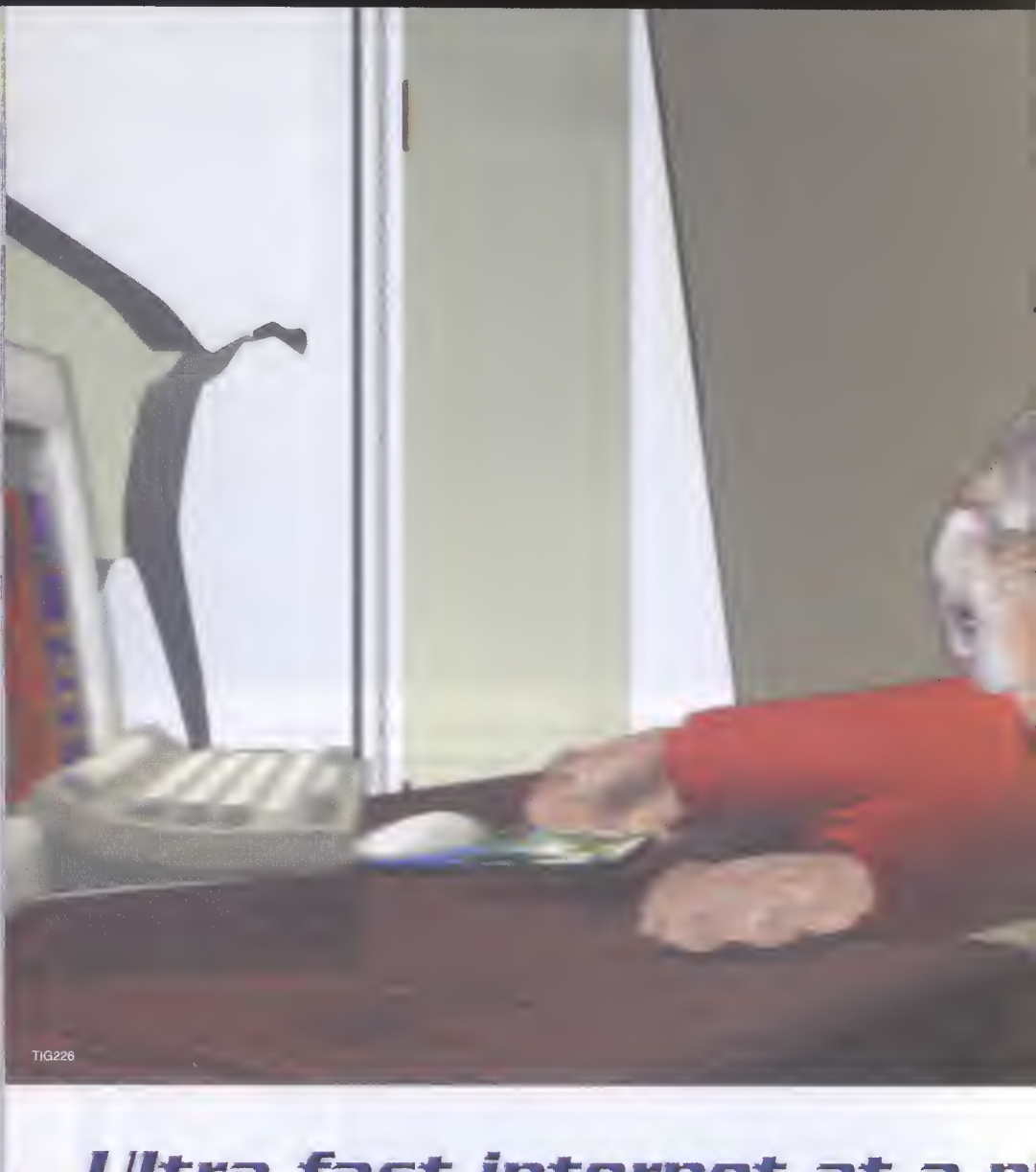
WebCentral Portal Builder can be used to return customers back to your Web Site, as the building block for your B2B (Business to Business) Portal or as a platform to "ASP enable" your existing software products. It's the way to ensure you own the customer from start to finish.

You only need 50 business customers to use WebCentral Portal Builder and we have plans that can accommodate over 50,000 business customers.

WebCentral is Australia's largest Web Hosting/Advanced Application Service Company and we're backed by the global infrastructure of UUNET, the world's largest Internet Service Provider.

For more information please contract WebCentral Corporate Sales on **1 800 800 099** or email **corpsales@webcentral.com.au**

Corporate. webCentral.com
Managed Solutions



Ultra fast internet at a p

With the new ULTRA service from ihug, you can get a super fast internet connection at prices that won't break the bank. The Ultra satellite account will give you **300 hours of high speed internet access for only $54.95* per month**, with no data charges or up

ihug®

*2 months notification prior to closure must be given. Installation and set

ice that'll blow you away.

front additional hardware costs. And because ULTRA is high speed internet, it'll make your old internet connection look like a tired old dog. Phone 13 62 92 or visit our website to get ULTRA now.

ULTRA

fee of $162.80 applies. Offer only for residential customers. Ihug terms & conditions and credit criteria apply.

www.ihug.com.au

Music downloads for Mac devotees

Jaz Piper for the Mac

Price	$399 including GST
Site	www.jazpiper.com
Platform	Macintosh

There's a wide choice of MP3 players for Windows PCs, each boasting many features at competitive prices. But there seems to be few players for Apple's Macintosh platform. One of the few is the Jaz Piper. Mac users into MP3 downloads or CD-encoded-to-MP3 music would find this handy little translucent gadget to be an aesthetically pleasing companion to their iBooks or iMacs.

This boxy player is equipped with 32 MB of memory, which will store about 7 high quality MP3s (encoded at about 128kps bitrate) or about a dozen low quality MP3s (encoded at about 96kbps bitrate). Bundled into the mix is the JazPiper Desk, which allows the upload/download of MP3 files and phone numbers from the Mac to the MP3 player.

Names and contact numbers can be stored into the Jaz Piper. This feature is quite helpful for MP3 junkies who need quick access to their contact list.For those who don't forget contact numbers but need to be constantly reminded of things to do, there is a voice recording mode. The 32 MB of memory can store up to 2 hours of voice recording, but 4 MB would suffice in handling the occasional note or personal reminder.

The two AAA batteries that power the Jaz Piper are not enough for the hard-core, music- obsessed Mac user. The player seems to gobble more battery power when MP3 files are being uploaded. Even if the batteries are meant to power the Jaz Piper for about 9 hours, the power supply decreases significantly when files are constantly downloaded and/or uploaded.

JAZ PIPER FOR MAC SPECSHEET

Built-in 32MB flash memory • SmartMedia Card memory slot (16 or 32MB) • Voice recording in ADPCM format • Stores 250 telephone numbers • LCD indicates song title, artist and playing time of each MP3 track • Function key status • Transmits up to 1.3Mbps • 5mW x 2 ear phone output • 20Hz~20KHz output frequency range • 3V power • Takes 2 AAA size general/rechargeable batteries • 66mm x 90mm x 18mm (W x H x D) • 74g (w/o batteries and belt clip)

The next version

Industrial design. The "Bondi blue" case is cute, but the boxy form is less than appealing. Perhaps a smaller, curvaceous form factor, plus a variety of colours can make the Jaz Piper more desirable.

Rechargability. The battery supply runs short quickly. Perhaps having NiCd rechargable batteries and a power adaptor could help.

More memory. Hopefully, future versions of the Jaz Piper would have 64 MB of memory as standard. More music means more hours of listening pleasure.

JazPiper desk Version 2.0. The current version of the connectivity software is way too slow when files are being uploaded, deleted and downloaded. The upgrade ought to be speedier and the telephone book utility should be integrated into the Jaz Desk.

All in all, the Jaz Piper is value for money for Mac users who love their MP3s. There's always room for software improvements but for now, this unit delivers and performs well. / CHILO ELINON

✪✪✪✪✪	ESSENTIAL
✪✪✪✪	VERY GOOD
✪✪✪	GOOD
✪✪	FAIR
✪	DON'T BOTHER

Zoom in on digital value

Kodak DC4800 Zoom Camera

✪✪✪✪✪

Price $1899 inc GST
Site www.kodak.com.au

There are two important but obvious questions when buying a digital camera: is it easy to use and are the pictures any good? Kodak's newest, packaged in a stylish titanium alloy body, meets the highest expectations on both counts.

A novice to digital cameras was handed it for the ease-of-use test. He got this one working brilliantly within minutes of unpacking it.

The autofocus takes high resolution (3.1 megapixel) pictures. It features a 3x optical zoom lens (28 to 84mm equivalent) with an additional 2x digital zoom extended and a minimum focus distance of 30cm. There are three aperture settings to vary light levels - but the camera surprised with an acceptable result even when pictures were tried in very low light inside during a dull winter's afternoon.

There is also a time-lapse exposure option and a mode that delivers a quick burst of up to 16 pictures (between two and five frames a second).

For the creative, you can decide whether to shoot in black and white or colour and how to expose the picture. There are filter choices of neutral (good for family pictures) or warm colour (good for landscapes), black and white, black and white with yellow and red filters and sepia.

Battery life has been a letdown with some previous cameras, but this one uses a single long-life lithium-ion battery, which recharges within the camera or on a charger, with full power restored in an hour. Pictures can be stored as good, better and best, jpg or uncompressed tiff files. Between 15 and 47 pictures can be stored using the 16mb card.

And the pictures? Highly impressive. This shows how the gap between sophisticated film cameras and digital cameras in this price range has closed. With the DC4800's ease of use, creative choices and superb picture quality, I'd put my money down on this little beauty. / NIGEL HORROCKS

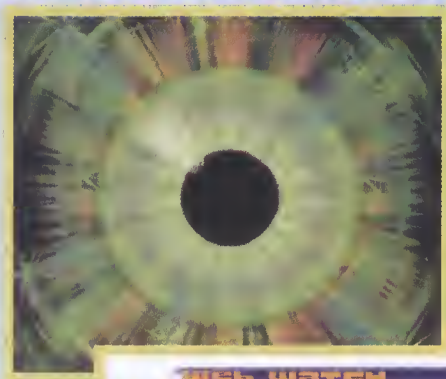
Visit Australia's No.1 shopping centre.

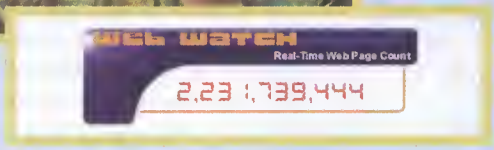
The highly regarded Red Sheriff RedGauge* ratings has just named tradingpost.com the number one online shopping site.

tradingpost.com

*Red Sheriff (IMR) March 2000

Number of Internet pages tops 2.1 billion





The total number of pages on the Internet has passed 2.1 billion, according to Cyveillance **www.cyveillance.com**, and more than 7 million new pages are being added each day. In its new report, *Sizing the Internet*, Cyveillance predicts there will be more than 4 billion pages on the Internet by early 2001. The report says that 84.7 percent of pages are US-based. The average Web page contains 23 internal links, 5.6 external links, and 14.4 images. It's only 6 months since Internet software giant, Inktomi **www.inktomi.com** announced there were more than 1 billion pages on the Internet.

Survey says still more men online than women

Female Internet users may have just surpassed male users in the US but they continue to lag behind in other countries, including Australia, according Nielsen NetRatings **www.nielsen-netratings.com**. Almost 51 percent of US Internet users in May were women, while 49.2 percent were men. In Australia, 54.9 percent of the audience in May were men, and 45.1 percent were women. Men continue to dominate the Internet audience in the UK and Singapore, where they constituted 60.9 percent and 57.6 percent, respectively, of the online audience in May. Just over 55 percent of the Irish Internet audience in May were men, while the figure for New Zealand was 52.3 percent.

NET NUMBERS

NETGUIDE'S QUICK TAKE ON THE INTERNET FACTS AND FIGURES THAT MATTER MOST

1 ▸ % of Australian tax returns expected to be lodged online this year (e-return)

1 ▸ in 20 people around the world online (Reuters)

1 ▸ the number of Web sites promoting hate in 1995 (Simon Wiesenthal Centre, LA)

more than 2,000 ▸ the number of Web sites promoting hate today (as above)

30 ▸ % of Australian Internet users who own MP3 hardware and software for music downloading (Quantum Research)

1,800 ▸ websites ordered to shut down for illegal use of trademarked "Olympic" terms (AAP)

15,000 ▸ health-related Web sites on the Internet (Australian Medical Association)

44,000 ▸ page views expected on the official

Compare the quality

www.buyitsellit.com.au

Online now for just a couple of months, this site lists only Australian shopping websites. To qualify, the sites must have secure servers and shopping carts for online purchasing.

More than 500 sites are listed, enabling the purchaser to "shop around" for whatever they're looking for, comparing products and pricing. Each written store description has been personally authored, enabling the customer to see at a glance the type of product offered, saving even more time. The site also lists specials and sales, so the customer knows where and when to get the best price.

The one hour online auction

www.travel.com.au

Imagine a return flight from Sydney to Honolulu for $450? Online travel company travel.com.au's new one hour auction tool allows you to bid for air tickets, often at prices well below the norm. Auctions start according to dates and times specified by travel.com.au so you'll see at the site when and how you can bid. Each offer is only available to bidders for one hour. Recent one-hour auction results have included Sydney to Noumea return for $420, Spain for $1100, Cairns for $310 and Bangkok for $360.

Search for pictures

www.ditto.com

A great tool if you're looking for images to download. Ditto looks for pictures rather than text. We tapped in "elephant" and Ditto returned more than 1,000 browsable thumbnail images. Remember, if you want to use the pix you have to clear copyright as usual.

For the poet in all of us

www.poetry.com

A budding poet's online Nirvana! Wander through the 100 greatest poems ever written (according to this site at least), enter a contest to win real money and kudos (every day), and get your work published. There's even a chance to submit your own thought-provoking haiku. You don't know what a haiku is? You will soon.

Sydney 2000 Olympic Games website – per minute (IBM)

50,000 ▸ accounts held with Australia's best-known online share broker, E*TRADE (E*TRADE)

400,000 ▸ copies of *Harry Potter & The Goblet of Fire* sold on Amazon.com in 24 hours. (BBC)

500,000 ▸ cyber attacks on NASA **www.nasa.org** in the past year (BBC)

1.7 million ▸ poets published on www.poetry.com **www.poetry.com**

15 million ▸ Britons who say they will never use the Internet because it is too expensive and irrelevant to regular life (Which? Online, UK)

A TRIBUTE TO AUSTRALIA'S SPORTING HEROES

Sir Donald Bradman AC

www.bradman.sa.com.au/index2.html
www.bradman.org.au/

The undisputed, unmistakable number one. The boy from Cootamundra became one of cricket's most prolific run scorers. If asked about The Don, almost every armchair sportsperson would say the great batsman retired with a batting average of 99.94 – achieved over 21 years in 51 tests. Some would also know that Bradman twice scored 1,000 runs in England before the end of the cricket season in May (1930 & 1938). He also scored 100 first class centuries and was the only batsman to score more than 300 runs in a single day's play – 309 on his way to 334 against England at Headingley in 1930. This run scoring machine was also the South Australian Squash Champion in 1939. A year after World War II broke out, the International edition of Who's Who dedicated 21 lines to Bradman. Adolf Hitler got 29 and Joseph Stalin only four. Sir Donald Bradman is now 90. He lives the life of a near recluse in Adelaide.

Phar Lap

www.mov.vic.gov.au/pharlap/
www.aritc.com.au/quiz5.html

Foaled in Timaru, New Zealand, the "Red Terror" was to become one of Australia's biggest sporting legends. As a young horse, Phar Lap won only one of his first nine races. But it was as a three year old his legend was created when he won the Rosehill Guineas and the Victorian and Australian Jockey Club Derbies. So determined

australian sports heroes

Producing and embracing winners is something Australians have done well for centuries. Be it man or animal, our sporting stars have provided joy in times of hardship and have helped define who we are. Join this online journey through our nation's young history as, in this most sporting of years, we pay tribute to some of the individuals who can truly be regarded as Australia's Sporting Heroes. By Stephen Patrick and the *NetGuide* team.

was Phar Lap that even being shot at from a moving car could not stop him winning the 1930 Melbourne Cup. In 1931 his owners wanted to scratch him from the Melbourne Cup but the Victorian Racing Club demanded he race due to the massive amounts of money already bet on him. Not surprisingly, he came in eighth, carrying a massive handicap of 68 kilograms. In March 1932, Phar Lap went to America and won a rich race at Agua Caliente racecourse in Mexico. Two weeks later he was found dead in his stables near San Francisco. Traces of arsenic were detected in his body but the autopsy never revealed the exact cause of death. His hide, mounted by an American taxidermist, remains on popular display in the Museum of Victoria in Melbourne.

Dawn Lorraine Fraser MBE

thegames.seven.com.au/text/dawn.asp
www.edhall.free-online.co.uk/fraser1.htm

Another colourful character in the league of Australian sporting legends, Dawn Fraser fought her way to the top by constantly rocking the official boat. Dawn was the first swimmer to win the same event in three consecutive Olympics and the first female to swim the 100-metre freestyle in under one minute. She held 39 world records (27 individual and 12 team), and was also the 100m freestyle record holder for 16 years. She was

GENERAL ALL SPORTS INFO SITES

Australian Sports Commission www.ausport.gov.au/sportex/
Temple of Sport www.templeofsport.com
Sports Online www.sportsonline.com.au
Australian Sport www.about-australia.com/sport.htm
James' Australian Sports Page www.ozemail.com.au/~jaymz/aussport.html
Australian Sports Stars www.angelfire.com/stars/australian/

given a 10-year ban after the 1964 Tokyo Olympics for attempting to "souvenir" a flag from the Emperor's Palace. This was lifted four years later. A daffodil, a rose and an orchid have been named after her and the Elkington Baths in the Sydney suburb of Balmain were renamed the Dawn Fraser Pool. More books have been written about her than any other female swimmer and a movie was made about her life. She was elected to the NSW parliament in 1988 where she represented the seat of Balmain until 1991.

Evonne Cawley MBE

www.laurielawrence.com.au/Another%20Legend.htm
mag-nify.educ.monash.edu.au/1000/ivanhoe_ps/Tnt.htm

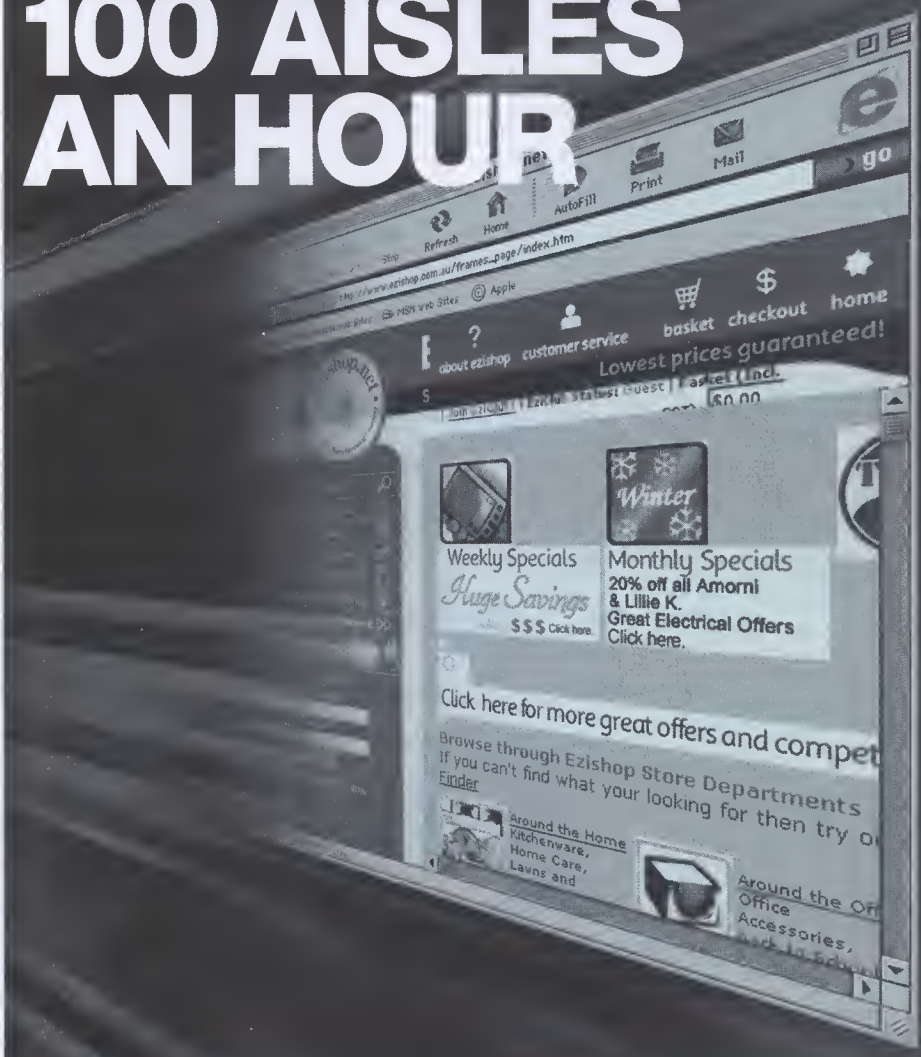
One of our most loved tennis stars, Evonne Cawley began honing her natural talents early in life in the small NSW town of Barellan. When she was 11, the man who eventually became her legal guardian, Vic Edwards, started coaching this future MBE. In 1970 Evonne went to her first Wimbledon and came home with the consolation Wimbledon Plate and the hearts of the country. Back more determined in 1971 she beat Billie Jean King in the semi-finals and then Margaret Court in the final. She was aged 19. From 1972 to 1976 Evonne was runner-up but in 1980, she beat Chris Evert Lloyd to again take the Wimbledon crown. Over her career she won 17 State titles, 3 Australian hard court titles, 4 Australian Opens, the Italian and South African Opens, and she reached the number one world ranking in 1975.

Rod Laver MBE

www.sportspublishinginc.com/Titles/The-Sports-100-Online/html/Rod-Laver.html
www.atptour.org/magazine/portraits/portrait06115.html

Rod Laver was the first player in the world to win tennis' Grand Slam – and he did it twice. In 1962 and 1969 he won the French, American, Wimbledon, and Australian Open Championships in the same year. During his professional career, Laver performed the only way legends know how - setting records on the way. In Davis Cup "The Rockhampton Rocket" won 20 out of his 24 singles matches for Australia, and was a member of the winning teams from 1959 to 1962 inclusive,

SHOP AT 100 AISLES AN HOUR



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*Based on a 56kbps modem

WHY WAIT WHEN YOU CAN access1

australian sports heroes

ROLL OF SPORTING HONOUR

Ron Barassi (AFL) www.afl.com.au/insideafl/halldisplay_3.htm
Richie Benaud (Cricket) www.geocities.com/Vienna/4076/benaud.html
Allan Border (Cricket) www.q-net.net.au/~gihan/border
Tommy Burns (Boxing) www.geocities.com/Colosseum/Stands/1539/
David Campese www.scrum.com/news/milcampo.asp
Clive Churchill (Rugby League) www.rabbitohs.com/burrows/legends/churchill.html
Margaret Court (Tennis) compass.mlc.vic.edu.au/projects/women/court.htm
Bart Cummings (Horseracing) www.bartcummings.com.au
Les Darcy (Boxing) www.harrygreb.com/lesdarcybiopage.html

and in 1973. In 1975 he set a world championship tennis record by winning four straight tournaments and 23 consecutive matches. Between 1964 and 1967 he won the Wembley Professional Tournament in London – this was considered the unofficial world professional title. In 1970 he was awarded an MBE for his services to sport. He was also tennis' first millionaire.

Lionel Rose

192.148.122.124/awards/a1960s.htm
www.boxing.clara.net/

The talents of Lionel Rose were not just restricted to the square canvas of the boxing ring. This 1968 Australian of the Year also performed country and western music and was offered roles in films. But the ring was where he shone, becoming Australian flyweight champion in 1963 and representing Australia at the 1964 Tokyo Olympics.

Between 1966 and 1969 he was Australian bantamweight champion and in 1968 became the first Aboriginal Australian to win the world title, beating Fighting Harada of Japan in his own Tokyo backyard. Rose held the world title until August 1969 when he was beaten by Ruban Olivares. Nine months later Rose retired, only to make an unsuccessful comeback five years on, winning only two of his six bouts. In late 1976 he hung up his gloves for good. Over his career this exciting boxer had 53 fights, winning 42 and losing only 11. 1991 saw a successful TV series made about this remarkable man's life called *Rose Against The Odds*.

Sir Jack Brabham OBE

www.ddavid.com/formula1/brab_bio.htm
www.f1-grandprix.com/history3.html

Labelled as one of the greatest drivers' motor racing has ever seen, Jack Brabham won three world championships, with the last being secured in a car he built himself.

Jack started racing after World War II and in 1947 won the NSW championship. In 1948 he took out the Australian midget car title. He went to England in 1953 to start road racing and in 1956 was hired as the works driver for the Cooper racing team. He spent two years driving Cooper Climax cars in formula two and sports car racing. In 1959, in

Mick Doohan (Motorcycling) www.doohan-500gp.com/
Herb Elliot (Athletics) www.coolrunning.com/20century/20tho8m.shtml
Roy Emerson www.tennisone.com/Theories/fox.emerson.p1.html
Shane Gould (Swimming) www.shanegould.com.au
Tim Horan (Rugby) www.gmg.com.au/horan/
Marjorie Jackson (Athletics) www.elitesports.com.au/Jackson.html
Wally Lewis (Rugby League) rleague.com/greats/lewis.html
Dennis Lillee (Cricket) www.rediff.com/sports/oct/30a1.htm
Walter Lindrum (Billiards) www.wais.org.au/hoc.htm
Tony Lockett (AFL) users.netlink.com.au/~swans/plugger.html CONTINUED OVER >>

the last race to clench the world championship and with only two real challengers, both of whom had to beat him to win, he ran into trouble. Brabham ran out of fuel on the last lap and had to again push the car over the finish line to take the title. He retired in 1970, after receiving an OBE in 1966. He was knighted in 1979 for his services to motor racing.

Keiran Perkins

www.ausport.gov.au/swim/zkperkin.html
www.abc.net.au/worldtoday/s125860.htm

One of Australia's leading hopes for a swimming gold medal at the Sydney Olympics, Keiran Perkins found his way to the sport that would make him a household name through asthma. The world's premier distance swimmer, and the current World and Olympic champion for 1500m freestyle, Perkins competes at his last Olympics this month. He had to draw on all his ability just to make the Olympic team this year. Perkins is not favoured to win the 1500m freestyle gold in Sydney, but true champions have a habit of triumphing when least expected. His 1500m freestyle world record of 14 minutes, 26.52 seconds still stands, and if he wins this event in Sydney he will become the first man in history to win three consecutive Olympic swimming gold medals.

Betty Cuthbert AM, MBE

www.rochedalss.qld.edu.au/olympics/pastheroes.htm
homepages.go.com/~oztrack/bios/cuthbert.html

If the mould of the sporting legend is forged by hardship then Betty Cuthbert takes a back seat to no one. Born in Sydney, Australia's "Golden Girl" joined the Western Suburbs Athletic Club. In 1953 she broke the National Junior 100 yards in a record 11.3 seconds. Before the 1956 Olympics she broke the 200m world record in a time of 23.2 seconds. Betty won three gold medals at the Melbourne Olympics and was named ABC Sports Star of the year for 1956. A hamstring injury dampened her medal chances at the 1960 Olympics in Rome, so she retired. However, she returned in 1964 to win the 400m at the Tokyo Olympics in a record 52 seconds. In 1964 she was awarded the prestigious Helms Award. This four time Olympic gold medallist is now battling multiple sclerosis.

australian sports heroes

Greg Norman (Golf) www.golfonline.com/greatwhiteshark
Susie O'Neill www.susieoneill.telstra.com.au
Johnny Raper (Rugby League) rleague.com/greats/raper.html
Bobby Skilton (AFL) www.ozemail.com.au/~pgdavies/s_skilto.htm
Shirley Strickland (Athletics) www.elitesports.com.au/Strickland.html
Peter Thomson (Golf) www.peterthomson.com.au/index2.act
Victor Trumper (Cricket) www.concreteboots.com/victa.htm
Steve Waugh (Cricket) www.stevewaugh.com.au/
Ted Whitten (AFL) www.ozemail.com.au/~pgdavies/s_whitt.htm
Tulloch (Racehorse) www.whatashot.com.au/tulloch.htm

Eddie Gilbert
www-aus.cricket.org/link_to_database/PLAYERS/AUS/G/GILBERT_E_02007444/

The first Australian cricket team to tour England in 1868 consisted entirely of Aborigines from northern Victoria, including Eddie Gilbert, who achieved astonishing pace from such a short run up. In his brief career, between 1930 & 1935, he played 23 first class matches for Queensland claiming 87 wickets for 28.97 runs. Gilbert was one of only fifteen people to dismiss Bradman without scoring. Bradman later wrote "he sent down in that period the fastest bowling I can remember ... I unhesitatingly class that short burst faster than anything seen from Larwood or anyone else". Eddie Gilbert died in a state mental institution incapable of speech, having spent 23 years of his life there. Even so, he died a member of an elite group of fifteen bowlers to have triumphed over the greatest batsman of all time.

Australia and Spain play the Davis Cup www.daviscup.com final in Spain starting December 8. The two countries have met in the final three times before — 1922, 1965 and 1967. Australia won all three.

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oceania

A guide to the Internet in Australia, South Pacific and beyond
oc.orientation.com

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Avoid irritation and disappointment. Shield yourself from expensive buy-back fees. If penetrating the online market is in your agenda, slip into NetRegistry's FREE domain name availability check to find out if your ideal domain name is in use, then register your preferred choice with Australia's fastest most efficient Internet registration company - NetRegistry.

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THE ONLINE OLYMPICS TO SET NEW RECORDS

THE OLYMPIC SPORTS SITES

Archery	www.olympics.com/eng/sports/AR/about
Artistic gymnastics	www.olympics.com/eng/sports/GY/about
Athletics	www.olympics.com/eng/sports/AT/about
Badminton	www.sydney.olympic.org/sports/BD/about
Baseball	www.olympics.com/eng/sports/BB/about
Basketball	www.olympics.com/eng/sports/BK/about
Beach Volleyball	www.olympics.com/eng/sports/BV/about
Boxing	www.olympics.com/eng/sports/BX/about
Canoeing/Kayaking	www.olympics.com/eng/sports/CF/about
Cycling	www.olympics.com/eng/sports/CR/about
Diving	www.olympics.com/eng/sports/DV/about
Equestrian	www.olympics.com/eng/sports/ET/about
Fencing	www.olympics.com/eng/sports/FE/about
Football	www.olympics.com/eng/sports/FT/about
Gymnastics	www.olympics.com/eng/sports/GT/about
Handball	www.olympics.com/eng/sports/HB/about
Hockey	www.olympics.com/eng/sports/HO/about
Judo	www.olympics.com/eng/sports/JU/about
Modern Pentathlon	www.olympics.com/eng/sports/MP/about
Mountain Biking	www.olympics.com/eng/sports/CM/about
Rowing	www.olympics.com/eng/sports/RO/about
Sailing	www.olympics.com/eng/sports/SA/about
Shooting	www.olympics.com/eng/sports/SH/about
Softball	www.olympics.com/eng/sports/SO/about
Swimming	www.olympics.com/eng/sports/SW/about
Synchronised swimming	www.olympics.com/eng/sports/SY/about
Waterpolo	www.olympics.com/eng/sports/WP/about
Table Tennis	www.olympics.com/eng/sports/TT/about
Taekwondo	www.olympics.com/eng/sports/TK/about
Tennis	www.olympics.com/eng/sports/TE/about
Triathlon	www.olympics.com/eng/sports/TR/about
Volleyball	www.olympics.com/eng/sports/VO/about
Weighlifting	www.olympics.com/eng/sports/WL/about
Wrestling	www.olympics.com/eng/sports/WR/about

Olympics technology chronology

>> **Squaw Valley, US 1960** electronic data provides first real-time results. >> **Rome 1960** first television broadcasts. >> **Tokyo 1964** computer networking introduced to venues. >> **Montreal 1976** 150 terminals connected to an IBM mainframe. >> **Moscow 1980** computerised results in English, French and Russian. >> **Sarajevo, Yugoslavia 1984** email used for the first time. >> **Los Angeles 1984** 400 PCs used to tabulate and distribute results. >> **Albertville, France 1992** multimedia used for the first time. >> **Atlanta 1996** first official Olympic Games Web site. >> **Nagano 1998** world record for Internet traffic — 634 million views. >> **Sydney 2000** fastest, most powerful informati system ever built.

THE SYDNEY 2000 OLYMPIC Games are coming via the Internet to a computer or mobile device near you in world record time – courtesy of the most sophisticated results system ever built.

Few events attract global interest like the Olympic Games. More than 200 countries will be represented by about 10,000 athletes and about 4 billion people will watch on television. But the most impressive numbers for the Sydney 2000 Games, commencing September 15, will be generated by the Games' official Web site **www.olympics.com**

Since February 1998, when the Nagano Olympic Winter Games site received a record 634 million page impressions over 16 days of competition, the Sydney Organising Committee for the Olympic Games (SOCOG) knew its site would receive even more attention. Summer Games attract more fans and the number of people on the Web grows every day.

> **Telecommunications carrier, Telstra, has established a network for these Games capable of handling 500,000 mobile phone users and 1 million emails simultaneously.**

The Sydney Games have already been dubbed the "Internet Olympics" in the US because Sydney is nine hours ahead of London and 13 hours ahead of New York. When many of the finals are held, Sydney time, people in these two huge markets will be at work or asleep. The Net will thus become their primary source of information.

"This will be the event that really sees the Internet come of age. It will be definite proof that the Net is a critical part of any sports coverage," said Franklin Servan-Schreiber, director of new media at the International Olympics Committee (IOC) **www.olympic.org**.

But SOCOG says it will measure the site's succes by more than just Web page views. Besides the projected one billion page views during competition, the site also features a convenient way for sports fans to buy tickets, pins, programs and other memorabilia. While Internet usage records are sure to fall, SOCOG wants its online shopping stats to open eyes too.

Behind the official Web site

To deliver scores and statistics in real-time, the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games Web site will serve pages built "on the fly", drawing printed, photographic, and video content from multiple sources. They will be created by about 100 volunteer and paid journalists, producers and Web designers. A powerful e-business component has also been built into the site, which allows, for the first time, the sale of Games merchandise over the Net.

The site's content is a collaboration between IBM **www.ibm.com.au**; Telstra **www.telstra.com**; international photographic agency, Allsport **www.allsport.com**; Australian photographic agency, Wildlight **www.wildlight.com.au**; the Australian

Bureau of Meteorology **www.bom.gov.au/Olympic**; Encyclopaedia Britannica **www.britannica.com**; new media developers, Hyro.com **www.hyro.com**; and Sport Library **www.sportlibrary.com.au**.

A massive data warehouse receives information from the venues and distributes it to the world's news agencies, the Games Intranet site, and the Official Sydney 2000 Olympic Games site. At the height of the Games there will be more than 70,000 pages on the site, 45,000 of them results.

IBM expects its Sydney 2000 Games site will receive more than one billion page views during the 16 days of competition. That's almost 44,000 per minute.

Starting lists, competition progress, and final scores are transmitted for display on the scoreboards in the various competition venues. Updated results from each venue are converted into graphics and superimposed with live event footage, blended with sound, and broadcast around the world via satellite and broadband Internet access — all in less than a second. However, television style broadcast footage will be limited to protect TV broadcast rights. The peak of site traffic is expected to be around the Men's 100m running final.

Support from fans

The FanMail Web site, **www.ibm.com/fanmail** is an online environment that links fans to athletes via home pages and email. In the athletes' village near the main stadium, athletes access FanMail in what's been dubbed the "Surf Shack," a cyber pavilion equipped with Internet-connected computers. Fans can get closer to their favourite athletes by sending them messages, reading their personal home pages and learning more about what's going on at the athletes' village.

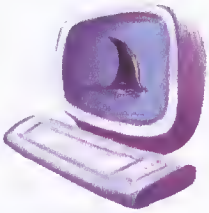
NETGUIDE RECOMMENDS... Sydney Olympics Site **www.olympics.com** ✪ The Sydney Morning Herald **www.smh.com.au/olympics** ✪ ninemsn **www.ninemsn.com.au** ✪ Channel 7 **www.olympics.com.au** ✪ NBC Olympics **www.nbcolympics.com** ✪ CNNSI.com **www.cnnsi.com/olympics** ✪ Fox Sports **www.foxsports.com/Olympics** ✪ News Limited **www.ourolympics.com**

Surfing? the net

www.aba.gov.au/family

Australian Families Guide to the Internet

Helps parents guide children to a rewarding, productive and safe experience on the Internet. Go to: www.aba.gov.au/family



Online-hotline for complaints about Internet content

If you want to make a complaint about illegal or offensive Internet content, go to the Australian Broadcasting Authority's online-hotline: www.aba.gov.au/what/online/complaints.htm

www.aba.gov.au/what/online/complaints.htm

For copies of a printed brochure about the Guide, or for more information about making a complaint, call the ABA on 1800 226 667

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THE NEXT 9 STEPS TOWARDS

TRUE NET SAVVY

So you know your Netiquette, download software with ease, have bookmarked your favourite sites and chat in perfect safety. You are a confident Netizen, but you wonder what you should do next to expand your knowledge, bolster your security and enrich your Net experience. **Murray MacLachlan** has a few suggestions for those who want to move ahead.

001 Master an instant messaging program

Faster and safer than email, instant messaging (IM) is an Internet communications tool that informs you who, in a designated group you form or join, is online at any time and enables you to chat with them. IM programs do the hard slog searching, and they'll alert you when others in your group log on. Any IM program will also let you send files, URLs, play games, and conduct conferences. IM programs run in the background, taking up minimal memory and Net resources, allowing you to work efficiently while maintaining a wide range of Internet functions at your fingertips. The most popular IM program is ICQ **www.icq.com**. Others worthy of mention are Odigo **www.odigo.com**, Gooey **www.gooey.com** and Intouch **www.start.com.au**.

002 Scan images into your email

If your email program allows you to send email messages in HTML format, try to include images in your email. Most programs will read HTML messages. On the Tools Menu, click Options, and then click the Mail Format Tab. This will allow you to send HTML mail. To add an image to your HTML email, choose Insert/Picture/Browse, locate the image on your disk, and select Open and then OK. To ensure your images can be viewed by others, make sure the file size of your images is as small as possible (up to 200Kb).

NOTE: HTML (Hypertext Markup Language) is the set of symbols or codes inserted in a file intended for display on a World Wide Web browser. The markup tells the Web browser how to display a Web page's words and images for the user.

003 Improve your PC's speed

Internet connection speed is determined by your PC's hardware and memory capacity, the type and speed of the modem you're using, your Internet connection method, your ISP, the time of day you're connected, and the page you are trying to connect to. Measure your speed at DSL Reports **www.dslreports.com/stest/**.

To improve your speed, you should browse in off-peak hours, consider installing speed tweak software such as iSpeed **www.ispeed.com** or adjust the Windows MTU (Maximum Transmission Unit) size in your registry **www.infinisource.com/techfiles/maxmtu.html**. Other options are to buy more RAM or a faster processor (or both), or change your connection method to a satellite dish or a cable modem, which is basically a cable TV connection.

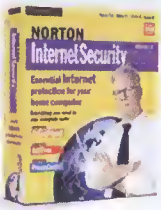
004 Use encryption

Encryption makes email more secure and is vital for confidence with online financial transactions. Encryption scrambles your personal information so no one except secure sites can read it. The encrypting site sends you a scrambler, your PC encrypts and sends your data (e.g. credit card

details) and the encrypting site receives and unlocks it. The rule of thumb is the more bits in the scrambler key the better. 128-bit encryption is the widespread corporate benchmark. This is what you should adopt.

Purchasing online A secure site is indicated by a pop-up window, an icon of a locked lock at the bottom of your browser window, and the http: changes to htts: (for "secure"!). Any of those mean that no one but you and the encrypting site can view your information. Some merchants also ask you to create a password. Keep it safe. Always use secure sites, and use the same judgement you would when handing your credit card to any retailer. Online shopping will become a breeze.

005 Understand your privacy position and know your rights



The Web is a public place, even though it can feel private because you connect to it from your own home. To improve your privacy, you should know what information is revealed about you when you connect to the Web and how to select the right technology to control this information. Armed with this knowledge, your browsing and shopping will become safer and more enjoyable. So, here's the lowdown on PC information, firewalls, cookies, and shopping:

You and Your PC The Web page **privacy.net/analyze/** shows what other users can find out about your PC when you log on to the Web. The key words you type into search engines are also public knowledge. There are many security FAQ's on the web and **www.about.com** is a sound starting point. Your solution is a firewall.

Your personal firewall A firewall is a barrier between your PC and the Web. Your firewall programme must deny access to anything or anyone that doesn't have your specific permission to access your PC, it must be easy to change settings on, and it must maintain a log of sniffing (entry) attempts from outsiders. The ZoneAlarm firewall **www.zonelabs.com/beta_download.htm** does all these things, and it's free. Check your utilities package for a firewall — companies such as Norton **www.norton.com** often provide one as part of their product. You probably already have virus protection with Norton, McAfee www.mcafee.com, or Australia's Vet Antivirus **www.vet.com.au** software.

Gibson Research **www.grc.com** is worth a visit for its utilities for PC security. Other sites to scan your PC security are DSL Reports **www.dslreports.com/**secureme and Anti-Online **www.antionline.com**, which has a virtual security expert of whom you can ask questions online.

What you need to know about cookies A cookie is an information gathering device which Web sites use to track where you have surfed. When you connect to a Web site, the server it is hosted on doesn't remember you from one instruction to the next, so it may send you a cookie and use the information in it to remember your preferences and track you. You can reduce and often eliminate your surfing trail by changing your browser settings. In Netscape the sequence is "Edit/Preferences/Advanced" and

click the radio button. Internet Explorer is not so simple: use "Tools/Internet Options/Security", select a security setting and consider which Web pages you want as Trusted sites. Remember any changes you make because cookies need to be "on" for online banking, shopping, and some discussion groups. There is plenty of shareware to kill cookies, especially at Cookie Central **www.cookiecentral.com** and Junkbusters **www.junkbusters.com/cgi-bin/privacy**.

006 Check your software is up to date and performing well

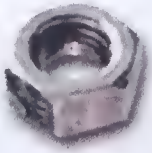
Technology that can fix all kinds of problems on your PC is now commonplace, and you should be aware of what's available. Using automatic protection from bugs, security holes, and problems caused by outdated software will result in less computer downtime.

For ease of use and coverage, BigFix bigfix.com is an effective software update resource. Download the BigFix software and it scans your system daily for holes and suggests fixes. For Windows itself, use the Windows Update feature — found in Win 98 onward — complemented by advice from commentators at e-zines such as Windows magazine winmag.com or those that follow.

007 Place your finger on the pulse of the World Wide Web

To be up with the very latest inside stories on Web happenings, subscribe to Netsurfer Digest at **www.netsurf.com/nsd/**, regarded as one of the best e-zines chronicling Web events. It's the industry insider's bible. Every weekend it arrives

free in your email bristling with news, fascinating sites, controversies, debates, and issues. In Web terms it's been around forever, yet it remains freshly guarded about everything, including itself. CNet, shareware.cnet.com ZDnet **www.zdnet.com** and the anarchic Slashdot **www.slashdot.org/** are also worthy of consideration as regular information resources.



008 Measure your system performance

SANDRA **www.sisoftware.co.uk/sandra** is a comprehensive benchmarking package that gives information on every component in your computer system and suggests tweaks to improve its performance. Many of the SANDRA functions already exist in Windows, but SANDRA is an extremely convenient all-in-one package. Having benchmarked and found areas to improve, confident users may wish to investigate custom tweak software. Enter the keyword "tweak" at **www.zdnet.com/downloads/** to see what's available. A guide to Microsoft's popular TweakUI programme can be found at **www.pcforrest.freeserve.co.uk/tweakui**.

009 Download & play some music

Finding the tunes MP3 files are all over the Web, but finding a particular song or album in the jumble of MP3s is difficult. The best way is with a dedicated MP3 search engine. Sites such as 2Look4 **www.2look4.com**, Filequest **www.filequest.com**,

and Audiofind **www.audiofind.com** scour sites for MP3 files that match your search terms. You can also download a dedicated MP3 search engine, such as MP3 Fiend **www.mp3fiend.com**, that will query multiple MP3 search sites simultaneously for the songs you're seeking.

Yet another option is to use an MP3 file directory, such as MP3.com **www.mp3.com**, Emusic.com **www.emusic.com**, or listen.com **www.listen.com**. These file libraries, which categorise songs by genre, are the best way to find legal MP3s. Most of the songs listed on these directories are by new artists hoping to get their music heard through the free MP3 format, or by big-name musicians who have licensed their songs for MP3 distribution.

Playing the tunes To play MP3s, you need a computer that can handle them. All that space-saving compression requires a lot of processor power and RAM, so its recommended you have at least a Pentium or a Mac PowerPC processor, with 32MB of RAM or more. Anything less will most likely make your machine slow to a crawl when you play your favourite files. On the hardware end, you'll need a 16-bit sound card (most PCs already have one installed) and speakers or a set of headphones.

As for software, you'll need an MP3 player. Dozens of MP3 players are available for download, but only a few stand out from the crowd. Winamp **www.winamp.com**, the most popular player and an industry favourite features a simple, compact interface that contains everything you need: a digital readout for track info, an unobtrusive sound level display, and intuitive controls. Other popular players include Sonique **www.sonique.com** and AudioCatalyst **www.audiocatalyst.com**. Whichever MP3 player you choose, make sure it comes with a playlist editor, which lets you create lists of songs that can be played in the order you wish.

OTHER ADVANCES WORTH CONSIDERING

Cable Broadband Forum
www.broadbandforum.com
Broadband Intelligence
www.broadbandintelligence.com

Federal Government Guide
www.dcita.gov.au/shoponline
About Online Shopping
onlineshopping.about.com

Gamers.com www.gamers.com
Netscape's Understanding Games
home.netscape.com/support/books/netcenter/044000253.htm

Liszt www.liszt.com
MSDN Web Workshop **msdn.microsoft.com/workshop/essentials/mail.asp**

The Internet is a great place to shop. Particularly if you're a thief.

As the Internet plays an increasingly larger part in our lives, protection has become increasingly important. Norton Internet Security 2000 provides essential Internet protection for your home PC. As well as keeping personal information private, this comprehensive suite includes Norton Personal Firewall to defend against hackers, and award-winning Norton AntiVirus to eliminate dangerous viruses. If you'd like more information, visit us at www.symantec.com.au or call 1800 680 026.

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SOME CURRENT AUSTRALIAN GAMBLING SITES

Star Online	www.star.activ.com.au
Tattersal's	www.tatts.com
Lottos.com.au	www.lottos.com.au
Centrebet	www1.centrebet.com.au
eBet Online	www.ebetonline.com
Ausvegas	www.ausvegas.com
Go Bet	www.gobet.net

gambling online

EVER SINCE THE COMBINATION of a PC, a modem and an Internet connection made it obvious that gambling would be possible online, Australia has been in the grip of a debate about the pros and cons of yet another way for its citizens to win, or lose, more money. It's a debate that is about to enter a critical phase.

Those who see no reason to prohibit gambling on the Internet include the Internet gaming industry, most Australian States and Territory Governments, and adult gamblers. Collectively, their attitude is that governments already have enough say in our lives and adults should be free to make their own choices.

Those who oppose the expansion of legal online gambling include the nation's social services organisations, and the Federal Government. Together, their argument is that Australians already waste too much money on gambling at a heavy cost to individuals, families and society. Police sources in four Australian States have also told *NetGuide* they fear online casinos will make money laundering easier.

The future of online gambling in Australia will soon be determined by the will of Australia's State Governments, which have constitutional rights to regulate gambling within their borders, against the will of the Federal Government, which has constitutional rights to regulate the nation's telecommunications, including the Internet. Each has stated with much bravado that they don't want the others' nose in their affairs.

In fact, Tasmania has said it will sue the Federal Government "for millions" if Federal laws are used to force the closure of gambling sites Tasmania has already sanctioned.

What the Australian online gaming industry wants

Regulation and profits. Recent independent Research by Deutsche Bank shows that Internet gambling globally has the potential to generate more than US$9 billion in revenue a year by 2003. The Australian industry argues it can grab up to half this market if the US continues to prohibit online gambling. The theory is that punters the world over would be attracted by Australia's established regulations and its safe gambling environment.

Richard Bosnall, the CEO of Go Bet Limited **www.gobet.net**, a company that consults to the cyber casino industry, says: "The potential economic benefit of Internet gaming cannot be overemphasised. It is simply another e-commerce and entertainment application of the Internet. Governments are technically unaware or ill-advised if they think Internet gaming is an industry they can ban unilaterally."

US research company, Frost & Sullivan www.frost.com, estimates the global market for online gambling will grow from the current US$2.6 billion to US$10.9 billion by 2005.

Currently, under a variety of laws adapted from ordinary gambling legislation, Internet gambling is illegal for residents of Singapore, Hong Kong, mainland China, and Taiwan, but currently legal in Australia. The income opportunities for gambling sites – and the taxes State governments can take from them – are sweet and obvious.

But to the Federal Government, obvious also are the dangers of more gambling. It is concerned that poker machines in Australia have already created a $12 billion industry and almost 300,000 problem gamblers. It fears the Internet will produce even more social problems.

"All the evidence suggests that it (online gambling) is not going to be in anyone's best interest," says Minister for Communications, Senator Richard Alston.

"We don't want to see virtual casinos available 24 hours a day in homes, where people could lose substantial amounts of money. We want to look at the consequences, as well as the technical feasibility, of a permanent ban."

The consequences of an Australian ban

Local gambling industry observers say Internet casino operators will establish operations offshore if Australia bans Internet casinos. There is concern that if gamblers can't play on regulated, Australian-based sites, they will play on unregulated sites based overseas where fairness is often questioned, and where legitimate winners are not always paid.

Andrew Linder, the CEO of Hobart-based →To P54

Australians gamble about $40 billion a year through conventional means, more than $2,000 for every person. And they lose $11 billion a year (Australian Bureau of Statistics)

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BETTING ON WORLD EVENTS An Australian service called Newsbet www.newsbet.com.au now allows betting on news and current affairs. Newsbet hosts wagers on events from a variety of categories, including politics, religion, the environment, science and showbusiness.

GAMBLING @ AN AUSTRALIAN CYBER CASINO

Lasseters Online Alice Springs

Technology needed is a PC running Windows 95/98 or Windows NT, and a modem, Internet connection, email address, and Web browser. Games are downloaded one at a time onto the player's hard drive. They can be played within a few minutes.

Registration Complete registration at the site, which includes selecting a member password and ID number, setting 3 challenge questions only the player will know the answers to, setting a "trusted name" which is a secret phrase known only to the player and which helps to visually verify that they are interacting with Lasseters Online.

Lasseters Online **www.lasseters.com** conducts background checks to verify identity. A player validation code is provided via the player's registered email address. Players must use the validation code to gain access to the online site. A member ID and password is required every time you play.

Payment & security A player account is opened by credit card. Monthly deposit limit is $500. Winnings paid by cheque addressed to a nominated personal account of the player. 128 bit key encryption security for financial transactions.

Other Features

- Online chatroom for players
- Online Customer Care Centre to answer queries 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Wager Limits

- Minimum bet 1 cent
- Maximum Bet $500

gambling online

RIPPED OFF: GAMBLING ONLINE GONE WRONG

ABOUT A YEAR AGO, Adam Slattery, of Sydney, was on business in Kuala Lumpur. Well-versed in the ways of racetracks and casinos, he decided for the first time to try gambling online with a cybercasino registered in Costa Rica. He made an electronic funds transfer of $10,000 through his Australian bank to the casino's account in the Caribbean. After about a week of playing roulette and blackjack online to pass the time between meetings, Adam had won about $7,000. But when he attempted to withdraw his winnings, the casino claimed he had hacked into the blackjack game's software and had cheated. It refused to pay him his winnings. Worse, Adam is still battling to recover his initial stake of $10,000. Today, he confines his gambling to the racetrack. The US and the UK are littered with similar stories of people who claim they entered online casinos in good faith only to be ripped-off by unscrupulous operators. And if the computer hardware that powers the cyber casino happens to be physically located in a country that does not regulate its online gambling, there's nothing a gambler can do about it.

lottos.com.au **www.lottos.com.au**, believes an online gambling ban would affect Australia's economy. He says local ISPs, software developers, hardware retailers, gambling site operators, and the Federal Government itself would all miss earning gambling revenue.

"Australia has a once only chance to legislate online gambling with very tight guidelines," Mr Linder said. "These laws should protect local and offshore gamblers, and will therefore entice them to safe Australian sites, boosting the economy and bringing Australia to the forefront of e-commerce for both gambling and non-gambling web developments."

It has become apparent that island nations in the Caribbean and the Pacific would be the big winners from Australian and American bans. Antigua, the Dominican Republic, and Costa Rica are leading the world in online gaming facilities, with Pacific nations like Vanuatu, the Cook Islands and the Solomon Islands also heavily involved.

Tasmanian Gaming Minister, Paul Lennon, said the global nature of the Internet means the Federal Government cannot stop an online gambling product being offered to Australians.

"I don't think Senator Alston has got any idea what he's got himself into," Mr Lennon said.

How online gambling works in Australia

David Ohlson, the General Manager of the world's first Internet casino, the Alice Springs-based Lasseters Online **www.lasseters.com**, says the Federal Government seems to be pointing to technology as part of the problem when it actually can be part of the solution.

"With online gaming you can control peoples' limits and all transactions are electronic, which can cut down on money laundering," said Mr Ohlson, whose company claims 45,000 registered players worldwide. "At the moment, you can lose up to $10,000 at a real casino without even leaving your name."

At online casinos, players can periodically bar

Tasmania recently approved four new online gaming licences and has another five pending approval. In total, Australia's States have issued 22 online gaming licenses.

If you or someone you know is a problem gambler, initial help is available at Gamblers Anonymous online at www.gamblersanonymous.org

themselves from playing. They can set daily or weekly betting amount limits. The sites also display information about problem gambling, including gambling help lines and counselling services.

Mr Lennon said new technologies allowed for highly regulated conditions, with the highest standard of player protection. And Tasmania has tougher controls for Internet gaming sites than already exists for physical casinos.

Said Mr. Lennon: "For example, in the case of guarding against people under 18 accessing these sites, the fines are 60-100 times higher for Internet licence holders. This alone should reassure the public that Internet sites operated from Tasmania will have the highest standard of player protection and probity."

Almost. Opponents of online gambling were quick to reveal a loophole in the Tasmanian regulations, which does not prevent children gambling online provided they use an adult's log-on and password, and their own money.

The Federal Government stance In the upcoming Spring session of Federal Parliament, the Government will seek to temporarily ban Internet gambling with a 12-month freeze on granting licences. The Government has already stated it favours a permanent ban on Internet gambling. It plans to prohibit online gambling services regardless of whether they are targeted at Australians. It has proposed the legislation be enforced by the Federal Police, with fines of up to $1.1 million a day.

State & Territory governments stance Regulation of online gambling, not a blanket ban. The State's claim they are best placed to administer gambling in all its forms. They are upset at what they see as the patronising attitude of the Federal Government, and claim it should not use Commonwealth powers to override States' Rights.

The only sure bets left in this debate is that someone will win and someone will lose – big time. And of course, online gambling will remain available for Australians, legal or otherwise.

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When ergonomics meets the Net

Usernomics

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN MACHINES AND PEOPLE IS THE RELATIVELY YOUNG SCIENCE WE KNOW AS ERGONOMICS. TREVOR POULTNEY EXPLAINS THAT AS TECHNOLOGY TEMPTS US TO SPEND MORE AND MORE TIME IN FRONT OF A SCREEN, WE SHOULD REALISE HOW OUR HEALTH SUFFERS – AND WHAT WE CAN DO TO MINIMISE THE DAMAGE.

YOU KNOW HOW IT IS. Dinner's over and there's time to fire up the computer before bed. First, there's that letter you've been avoiding to write, then the emails to check and return. While you're online, you take the opportunity (excuse?) to see if "Rosebud" is cruising the chatroom tonight. Finally, you remember that site for early model Holdens you read about in the latest *NetGuide*. Before you know it, four hours have slipped by. You sign off, rise down and unfold from the chair.

Then it hits you. Your back seems fused in a perpetual question mark, your shoulders ache and you have trouble focusing on things on the other side of the room. You've become a victim of your own online intensity.

Sound familiar? Don't despair – there's plenty you can do to minimise the discomfort from long hours at the computer. And the good news is that much of what you can do costs only a little thought and effort, rather than hard cash.

Your monitor Firstly, look at your screen. Are you sitting too close? Ideally, the distance from your eyes to the screen should be at least 65 centimetres. The Office Ergo site **www.office-ergo.com** helps you check ergonomic details. The suggestions here are backed by impressive reference to recent research.

Current thinking, explained by Office Ergo, is that the further away the screen is, the better. While this might pose some problems when surfing the Net, if you are typing or reading text you can increase the size of the characters to make them easier to read from a distance.

Contrary to the commonly held belief that you should look straight ahead to see your screen, the optimum position for the screen is between 15 degrees and 50 degrees below eye-level. This is the angle at which the eye is most comfortable when looking at close objects. A quick rule of thumb: the top of your monitor should be set at eye level.

This angle also gives you more options for moving your neck, thus helping to keep your neck from getting stiff over long periods. A screen at eye-level means that, if you bend your neck, you are forced to look out of the top of your eyes – a practice which becomes very uncomfortable when applied to close objects for any length of time.

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ergonomics

WHAT IS ERGONOMICS? The word ergonomics comes from two Greek words: "ergon", meaning work, and "nomos" meaning laws. Today, the word is used to describe the science of "designing the task to fit the worker, not forcing the worker to fit the task." Ergonomics covers all aspects of a job, from the physical stresses it places on joints, muscles, nerves, tendons, and bones, to environmental factors which can effect hearing, vision, and general comfort and health. Ergonomics is also known as "human engineering."

Another way to minimise the possibility of a stiff neck is to tilt the screen so that it is further away from your eyes at the top than it is at the bottom. This is because we are used to seeing objects in the upper part of our peripheral vision as further away, while those in the lower part are usually closer. If you want proof, read from a sheet of paper you hold in both hands. Now tilt the paper so that it is perpendicular to the floor.

Difficult to read? Lighting associated with your screen also affects your eyesight. Position your screen where it will not be subject to glare and reflection from other light sources in the room. Avoid merely changing the angle of your screen to prevent this (see above) but use shades and blinds to control outside light. Keep artificial lighting low and indirect.

Where possible, also control your screen colours. Dark letters on a light background are easier on the eye. Experiment in order to find a level of contrast on your screen that is comfortable for you. Charles Poynton, a Canadian video technologist, gives sound, detailed advice on how to establish viewing conditions that minimise eye stress **www.inforamp.net/~poynton/notes/reducing_eyestrain**.

NEWSGROUPS & CHATROOMS
www.mailbase.ac.uk/lists/ergonomics
www.interface-analysis.com/ergoworld/list.htm
www.tile.net/lists/ergonomi.html

Your chair Not many of us can afford to have a super ergonomic chair designed to fit our body like a glove. Most of us have to make do with what's available, and there are simple things you can do to maximise comfort. Make sure you select a chair that enables you to rest your feet flat on the floor, to sit back against the backrest without experiencing pressure behind your knees, and to provide solid support for your back.

Forget what your parents told you about sitting up straight – your sitting position should be slightly reclined, rather than upright. When you are leaning back you transfer more of your weight to the back of the chair, thus easing your vertebrae and back muscles. You may wish to try a cushion or lumbar roll for support in the small of your back.

If you *are* in the position of buying a new chair, look for firm support and the ability to make adjustments to heights and angles. Armrests should enable you to type with your forearms parallel to the floor. Some people find that "kneeling" chairs suit them, preferring to transfer the bulk of their weight to their knees. Find out about them at Adjustable Seating **www.kneelsit.com**.

Whatever chair you choose, try to arrange a probing "test run" to make sure it suits your individual requirements. A

quality chair will allow you to make changes in your sitting position, yet still offer sound support. For a bit of fun in the chair department, visit The Zephinie Workstation **www.prodigywebb.net.mx/zwzw/** and learn how to "optimise neuromuscular and psychosomatic relaxation".

Your desk Your desk should be at a height that allows you to sit comfortably with your knees under it. You might have to experiment to get the correct combination of desk and chair. The positioning of the keyboard can be a problem here, with many desks too high to allow you to keep your forearms parallel to the floor.

If you have to buy a desk, consider one with a separate slide-out leaf on a lower level for a keyboard. Make sure your desk has enough surface area to accommodate all your gear – and don't forget "peripherals" such as books, papers, and phones.

REMEMBER whether you use your computer as a tool of your trade or just to surf the Net, careful thought about equipment and posture will protect your health and ensure your comfort.

Your mouse Surprisingly, your mouse can be one of the greatest comfort-killers. Prolonged and repeated use of the mouse easily translates into aching shoulders.

Have a close look at your mouse. Most of us use one that disappears under our hands. Investigate using a larger mouse, one that doesn't require you to keep your hand clenched. For new (and comfortable) approaches to the Net-surfing mouse, have a look at Scott May's review of the Microsoft Intellimouse **www.zdnet.com/products/stories/reviews/0,4161,2344562,00.html** or the Logitech MouseMan+ **www.zdnet.com/products/content/cshp/1712/cshp0037.html**.

There are cheaper ways of minimising discomfort caused by mouse usage than buying a new mouse. Try using alternate hands for manipulating the mouse. While this might not be practical when working on detailed graphics programs, you shouldn't have much trouble while merely surfing the Web. Make sure your arm has good support on the table or the armrest of your chair, and keep the mouse close to your body.

Where possible, alternate between mouse and keystroke substitutes or, if you are using an extension keyboard with a laptop, alternate between a mouse and other pointing devices. Investigate some great alternatives at The Cat Shop **www.ozebiz.com.au/thecatshop**. Or you could window-shop for Silicon Valley treasures at The Ergonomic Office Store **www.teos-inc.com** and Safe Computing **www.safecomputing.com**.

Your keyboard If you're a champion typist, you may find an ergonomic keyboard to your liking. These divided keyboards provide support for wrists and allow the hands to rest at a more natural angle. As with any other new equipment or furniture

A notebook PC strap that utilises shock absorbing material that evenly distributes weight over the shoulders is now available in Australia. The Targus EqualizerStrap www.targus.com.au reduces strain and provides superior comfort for notebook addicted road warriors.

THE ERGONOMICS OF COMPUTING EXPLAINED

Fujitsu Computers **www.fujitsu-computers.com/ergoweb/HowTo/ht-start.htm**
IBM **www.pc.ibm.com/ww/healthycomputing**
The National Occupational Health and Safety Commission of Australia **www.nohsc.gov.au**
The official journal of the Ergonomics Society of Australia **www.uq.edu.au/eaol.**
Workspace Resources **www.workspace-resources.com/refoo.htm**
The Typing Injury FAQ site **www.tifaq.com**

you purchase, it pays to test drive the merchandise first to make certain it suits you, as ergonomics is not a process of "one size fits all". Check out what's available online by visiting sites like Teleprint Systems **www.teleprint.com** and Ergonomic Computing **www.mandmw.com/ergo.html**. Lefties should check out The Left Hand.com **thelefthand.com/comp.htm** or DMB Ergomonics **www.dmb-ergonomics.com/cdproduc.htm**.

Your breaks Finally, remember to move. It's all too easy to get so absorbed in what you're doing that you remain frozen in the same position for too long. You should at least take a 15-minute rest break every two hours, but take short 30-second breaks more frequently – every ten minutes. Remember that a change (in activity) is as good as a rest.

When you're at your screen, remember to blink! The normal human blink rate is once every five seconds. Give your eyes a rest before they tire; close them for a few seconds. Choose a distant focal point and frequently refocus from the monitor to that object (about every 10 minutes).

Here's to you, Dad

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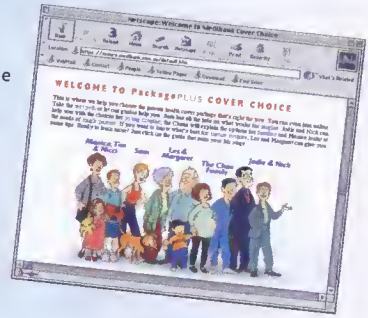

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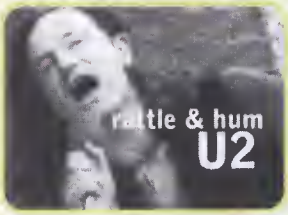

19 August, 7:30PM
U2 – Rattle and Hum
www.channelv.com.au

21 August, time TBA
Green Man
www.liveconcerts.com

22 August, 11AM
The Tim Garland Trio
www.bluenote.net

25 August, 11AM
Danny Dean and the Homewreckers
24-hour cybercast. According to Dean, the group plays "50s rock and roll and swing the way it was meant to be played." **www.hob.com**

25 August, 2PM
Country artists **Keith Urban** and **Clay Davidson** live in concert.
www.liveonthenet.com

3 September, 7:30PM
R & B group **Destiny's Child**, live at Sydney's Hordern Pavilion.
www.channelv.com.au

8 September, 2PM
Country superstars **SheDaisy**, streamed live from the plaza in between New York's World Trade Centre towers.
www.liveonthenet.com

13 September, 11AM
Vertical Horizon, 24-hour video cybercast. This band released their debut album, Everything You Want, last year.
www.hob.com

18 September, 10:30PM
Moby live at the Hordern, performing tracks from his latest album, Play.
www.channelv.com.au

19 September, 11AM
Jazz artist **John Nugent** live at the Bluenote **www.bluenote.net**

27 September, 10:30PM
Aussie rock stalwarts **Midnight Oil** **www.channelv.com.au**

30 September, 10:30PM
Reef live **www.channelv.com.au**

movie sites

Rocky and Bullwinkle

www.rockyandbullwinkle.com

While not exactly a remake of the classic cartoon series, *Rocky and Bullwinkle* the movie picks up where its television counterpart left off. The two heroes have been living off the profits of the reruns of the series when their arch-nemeses, Boris and Natasha, manage to cross over into reality. The villains team up with the new criminal mastermind (and media mogul) Fearless Leader, leaving Rocky and Bullwinkle to stop them from taking over the world.

Titus

www.foxsearchlight.com/titus/index.html

Starring Academy Award winners Anthony Hopkins and Jessica Lange, Titus is a romantic-tragedy following the life of the Roman general, Titus Andronicus. When he returns victorious from battle, according to tradition Andronicus must sacrifice the eldest son of Tamora, the Queen of the Goths who was captured during battle. A twisted plot of double revenge ensues between Tamora and her remaining sons, Chiron and Demetrius, and Titus. It's based on the Shakespearian tragedy, *Titus Andronicus*.

happening sounds

THE BRITISH MUSIC SCENE is coming alive this month. The world-famous Glastonbury rock festival has just been and gone, and music fans are now warming up for the annual Reading festival **www.meanfiddler.com/readingfestival/main.asp**. Occurring in the UK on August 25th and 28th, it will feature the likes of Primal Scream, the Foo Fighters, Beck and Pulp. Supergroup Oasis are headlining, and insiders are tipping this festival could well be their final performance together. Meanwhile, former Verve singer Richard Ashcroft has posted his new album, *Alone With Everybody*, in its entirety in RealPlayer format on his Web site at **www.richardashcroft.co.uk**. The Verve disbanded last year after recording only one album together, *Urban Hymns*, which spawned the hit singles "Bittersweet Symphony" and "Lucky Man".

mp3update

latestMP3news

Napster down but not out

A court of appeal in the US granted a last minute reprieve to Napster, **www.napster.com**, overturning an earlier order by a judge who had directed the company close its online song-swapping service. The appeals judges said Napster could stay in business pending a further resolution of its case against the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA). The case has already dragged on for months.

The decision put on hold a US District Court ruling which told Napster to stop online trading of songs covered by copyrights owned by several recording industry heavyweights. Napster complained that the order would force it out of business.

The recording companies, represented by the RIAA, had claimed Napster aided the copyright infringement of their music. They described the popular site as a haven for music piracy. Napster has an estimated 20 million devotees who use MP3 files to swap songs.

*** see bro@dband on page 112**

Unsigned artists guaranteed an ear

Major American recording label, Dreamworks Digital **www.dream worksdigital.com**, is giving unsigned musical acts the chance to submit demos of their songs in MP3 format through their Web site. Executive Luke Wood promises the convenience of the new system will ensure most submissions are heard.

YourMUSICtips

Caddison

The Sydney punk trio have been busy playing live around town and recording a five-track EP which will be released this month. An MP3 of the track "Under the Thumb" is now up on their official Web site **www.caddison.com**.

Ben Lee

"Mr Claire Danes" has posted a cover of the Pet Shop Boys "I Don't Know What You Want But I Can't Give It To You" in the stimulations section of his Web site **www.ben-lee.com**. Of the Pet Shop Boys, Lee says: "I have always loved that they write sad dance music. Lonely, lovely boy music. This one hits the spot."

If you have put your own MP3 tracks online or found some cool ones, spread the word. Email editor@netguide.aust.com

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THE AUSTRALIAN ONLINE MUSIC STORE

PAMELA anderson

SHE MAY HAVE BEEN an unwitting victim of the broadcast possibilities of the Internet, however, actress Pamela Anderson hopes things are looking up for people who endure negative media attention in their private lives.

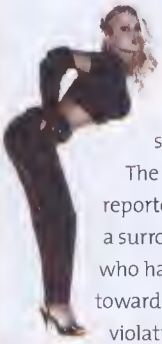
"I think they (still) need to monitor it closely," Anderson says. "They are starting to get the hang of it. I think they need to police it a little better."

Anderson, 33, and her then-husband, musician Tommy Lee, faced a massive violation of their privacy when a home video was stolen from their safe in 1995 and posted on the Internet. Even several years after the episode, it remains one of the Internet's most popular downloads.

Today, Anderson is philosophical about the affair, and is far from negative about the Internet as a whole.

"The Internet has completely changed my life because of the stolen videotape," she admits. "I don't have a good taste in my mouth about it, but it is fascinating. It is cool that you can find anything on the Internet. Unless it is misused."

Far from the stolen video being detrimental to her career, today Anderson is one of the most recognisable faces in the world. Since leaving *Baywatch* at the height of its popularity, she has gone on to star in several films including *Barb Wire*, and is the executive producer and star of television series *VIP*.



However, she is far more famous for the business of being Pamela Anderson rather than the highlights of her acting career. The removal of her breast implants last year captured headlines in everything from gossip magazines to the Sunday papers, and her on-again, off-again marriage to Lee is staple tabloid fodder.

The relationship is very much off at the moment, with Anderson reported to be seeing model, Marcus Schenkenberg, who is acting as a surrogate father for her two children, Brandon, 4 and Dylan, 3. Lee, who has already served a jail sentence for abusive behaviour towards his wife, is currently spending more time in prison for a violation of the terms of his parole.

PAMELA ANDERSON's links

New Age Web Works
www.newageinfo.com
Anderson credits her grandfather with instilling in her a lifelong love of "New Age" thinking. She's interested in mythology, fairy tales, crystals, meditation and dream interpretation.

Discover British Columbia
www.discoverbc.com
She may be associated with the beaches of the West Coast of the United States, but Pamela

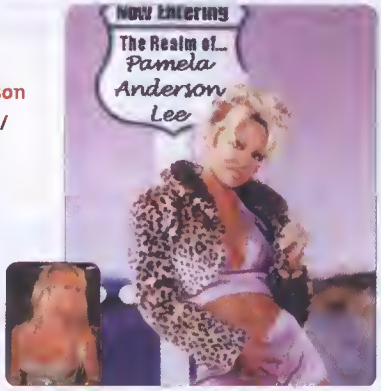
Anderson originally hails from a small town in Canada's British Columbia area.

The Security Store
store.yahoo.com/security-store
Pamela Anderson and Tommy Lee found out the hard way that a good home security system can be an investment in the future of your family (or, in their case, reputation).

Venice Beach Cam
www.westland.net/beachcam
According to her yearbook, Anderson's life ambition was to be a "California beach bum". For those with a similar calling, this site has a live picture from the world-famous Venice Beach that is updated every 10 minutes.

fansites

Planet Pamela
www.planetpamela.com
Mr Showbiz: Pamela Anderson
mrshowbiz.go.com/people/pamelaandersonlee
Pam's Realm
www.geocities.com/Hollywood/Lot/1603/pamsrealm.htm
A-List Celebrities
www.the-alist.org/PamelaAnderson



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best sites

Top 50

Shared Writing 72
Mobile Phones 74
Unusual Sports 76
Chat 78
Rock Music 80
Harry Potter 82
Aquariums 84
Site of the Month 86
& Homegrown
Shop Guide 89
Net Travel 90

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Paid to surf >>
Caroline Warnes, Chris Beecroft & JamieMcGraw
Point your browsers to **www.netguide.au.com** and follow the link to Top 50, where you'll find all this month's URLs.

74

HOTSPOT

Ravenscar Nights

www.io.com/~tdark/Ravenscar

If you want to experience a fine example of a Shared Writing site — where writers gather to complete stories others have started — visit Ravenscar Nights. There's a frequently-asked questions section which explains what a Shared Writing World is and who invented it. For the record, it was Robert Asprin with his Thieves'World series in the 1980s. The links page is useful for people who want to find similar sites, the graphics are enchanting, and there's a message board where you can offer your opinion of the site.

Star Fleet: Prime Directive

www.primedirective.org

This site is for those who love Star Trek: The Next Generation. The site has a military feel — you can slowly work your way up the ranks — and there is a helpful introduction page for anyone who wants to get started with Prime Directive. The stories centre around Star Trek's military and are set entirely in outer space. This is a site for anyone serious about their Star Trek. It will enable them to take fandom one step further.

The Eyrie

www.eyrie.org

Not graphically impressive, this site has a poignant and poetic style, which is ample compensation. Despite the primarily text-based pages a lot of thought has gone into creating this site; in fact, The Eyrie tells us that another organisation was only days from registering "eyrie" as a domain name but they got in first. The Eyrie has one of the best directories of links to Shared World sites you will find on the Web.

Omega

www.eyrie.org/omega

It is rare that you see a timeline in a Shared World.

Omega

Omega's timeline is exhaustive and follows the world's development very closely — from Gilgamesh at the dawn of civilization, right through to the 20th century with Adolph Hitler and the birth of famous men and women. This site is for people who like thrillers, conspiracies and espionage. There are many stories, each of fine quality, and the timeline will help you immediately get a grounding in the world.

Eleck Comics

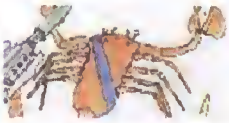
www.hu.mtu.edu/~asveenst/eleck

Many Shared World sites owe their creation to role-playing games and fantasy novels, but Eleck Comics takes a different bent - their site is comic-orientated. The graphics are straight from a comic book, and instead of a mediaeval or science-fictional word, Eleck Comics is entrenched firmly in the superhero domain. There are links to other sections of Eleck Comics, but the stories and authors of the Shared World are both interesting. The best thing: it's fun.

Aphelion Webzine — Mare Inebrium

www.aphelion-webzine.com/marelist.htm

Aphelion was an Australian print science fiction magazine in the late 1980s that moved to the Internet to escape burgeoning production costs. The shared world of Mare Inebrium



complements the Aphelion webzine without detracting from it. There is a list of the stories written and some fine art on the page. It's not as impressive as some other shared world sites but the format is user-friendly; there's even a link to a Shared World writer's home page.

Paul and MER*

home.earthlink.net/~mer98

This is the shared world of Paul and MER*. These people listen to a variety of music and have successful careers. They also enjoy playing ultimate frisbee and say it's one of the best games around. Not only that, Paul likes playing fantasy football too. Paul explains that you can own an imaginary football team. Visit the shared world of Paul and MER* and you'll get to know them. They really are nice people.

Chatrooms & Newsgroups

www.egroups.com/group/wccam

www.topica.com/lists/WWThemestream/?cid=5240

Links @ **www.netguide.au.com**

HOTSPOT

Phonechoice
www.phonechoice.com.au

Need a phone? Phonechoice offers unbiased advice and solutions. This site covers everything you need to know about mobile phones, including troubleshooting, repairs, tips, tricks and news. The best feature is the phone wizard that will advise which phone is right for you. There's a bill wizard too, which works out the cheapest plan based on the data you supply in the site's questionnaire. You can also view your mobile's network coverage and blackspots.

BlueSkyFrog
www.blueskyfrog.com.au

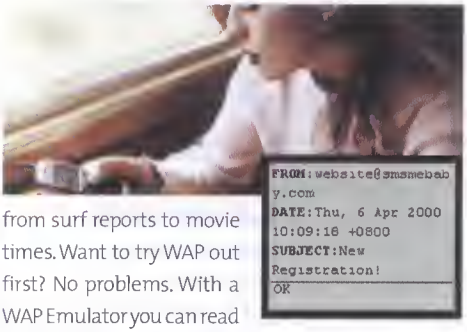
There aren't many sites where Australians can do cool things with their mobile phones. At this one, you can get SMS messages delivered to your mobile wherever and whenever you want — free. There's also information about other mobile-connected services, including entertainment, finance, and sports news to name a few. Sick of your boring screen saying "Mobilenet"? Well, get rid of it! Download something you feel is more appropriate. Best of all, from this site, it's also free to *send* messages.

YourMobile
www.yourmobile.com.au

Choose from a massive selection of popular musical ringtones and send directly to any compatible Nokia phone for free. Don't panic if you don't have a Nokia phone. You can simply follow the text instructions as to what buttons to push to make the tune you want. This site also has a Top 25 - the most popular tones as judged by the site's users. You'll never again be inconvenienced (or humiliated?) when someone else's phone rings with the same tone as yours.

Wapmebaby
www.wapmebaby.com

Owned by Blueskyfrog, Wapmebaby is one of the first sites offering free Wireless Application Protocol (WAP) services. All the information you need is available here:

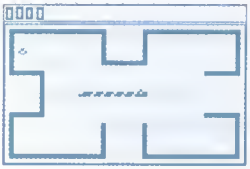


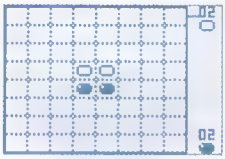
from surf reports to movie times. Want to try WAP out first? No problems. With a WAP Emulator you can read and use anything encoded in WAP. Make your own WAP site with the "Build your own WAP site" section. Truly a must have for professionals.

Nokia Games

www.nokia.com/games

Gaming on your mobile is a great time killer: especially on the train going to work. But of course, we all soon get sick of the same games. Before you get a mobile phone, go to this site and simply select the phone you're after and it will tell you what games are programmed into the phone. If you're unsure of which games you'd like, there are plenty of games to test at the site.





QUIOS

www.quios.com

Quios is the world's largest mobile community, allowing you to communicate with anyone involved. The site also delivers stock quotes, news, weather and other time sensitive information directly to your mobile phone. All the information offered is on-demand so you won't receive any spam. You can even join special interest groups to share information, and send an SMS message from the site without joining. Whether it's SMS, news or any other mobile phone service you need, it's all here and it's FREE!

Unimobile

www.unimobile.com

Unimobile is a tool that keeps you in touch with friends and the Internet anywhere in the world through your desktop, mobile device, or both. You can also get all the latest news delivered to your mobile. The interface even looks like a mobile and you can personalise the ring. Apart from being a great messaging tool it's simple to use, thanks to the easy-to-follow documentation.

Chatrooms & Newsgroups

www.topica.com/lists/mobilethings

www.egroups.com/group/gsm-pcn

Links @ **www.netguide.au.com**

HOTSPOT

A Falconer's Memoir

www.pbs.org/falconer

Falconry might seem like a relic from the middle ages, but for many hunting enthusiasts, the sport is still very much alive. Despite criticism from animal rights activists, falconers - such as the owner of this site - defend the pass-time of training a bird of prey to fly free, hunt as instructed by a human being then return to captivity as an "art" rather than a sport. It often requires long hours of training and patient waiting as well as study of the types of birds and their differing needs.

Home Appliance Shooting

www.csn.net/~dcbenton/has.html

Daniel C. Benton has spent many years taking weapons to humble home appliances. Nothing is sacred, from televisions and microwaves to armchairs and dressers. Benton says he began destroying furniture simply because it "looked fun to shoot", and he proudly displays snapshots of his handiwork at this site. However, if you're planning on taking a shotgun to your mother's antique lounge suite yourself, Benton warns to dress in protective clothing and always take a rake and garbage bags to clean up after yourself.

The Australian & New Zealand Association of Bellringers ANZAB)

www.anzab.org.au

Bellringing is not often thought of as sport, but it is a fairly physical activity given the strength required to move the heavier bells. Formed in 1962, ANZAB has more than 400 members across Australia and New Zealand promoting campanology (changing bellringing).

The first use of large bells is credited to Bishop Paulinus of Nora, near Naples, in the area that was called Campania in ancient times. Campanology was named after this region.

Lakewood Croquet Club

www.lakewoodcroquet.com

Have you ever wondered what the sum total of mallets and morons is? According to this site, the answer is "mayhem". Croquet may be a sport most commonly associated with English schoolgirls, but members of the club have developed their own variation known as "extreme croquet". While there's no single set of binding rules, individual rules can be tailored to suit particular situations. One of these is distracting your opponent by aiming a pine cone at his head and then blaming the attack on a nearby squirrel.

The Running of the Bulls

www.webcom.com/fermin/guide/encierro.html

This annual Spanish event has drawn international criticism because of its tragic history, peppered with deaths and serious injuries. Every morning at eight o'clock from July 7 to July 14, the animals are run the 800m from their pen to the bullring behind the human participants, who are usually young men. Although it now continues as a tradition, the run began as a local necessity since trucks had not been invented to herd the bulls.

Swim With Dolphins

www.eisa.net.au/~dolphins/rtrips.html

The Dolphin Society is an Australian non-profit making organization, established to research the effects on people of swimming and interacting with dolphins. Devotees of the activity praise its ability to relax as well as its general therapeutic qualities, with some sufferers of mental disorders such as depression claiming to be healed after taking part. The Society organizes research trips of up to 20 people at one time.

The Grey Company Trebuchet Page

members.iinet.net.au/~rmine/gctrebs.html

Trebuchets were used in medieval times to fling large objects such as boulders and rocks long distances, usually at a castle wall. A number of reconstructions of trebuchets and other siege-engines are currently underway around the world. At this site, the Grey Company show off their attempts to build small scale versions. While the page explains how the machines were used "in anger" in times past, the Grey Company wants also to celebrate their use today as a sporting toy.

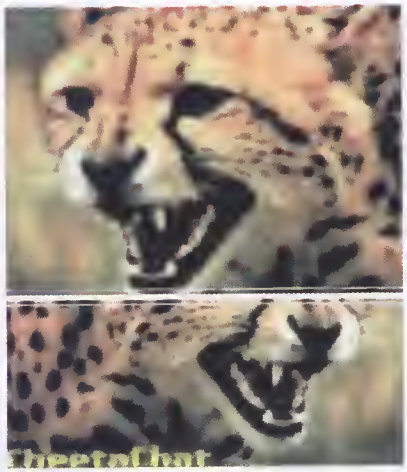
Chatrooms & Newsgroups

www.topica.com/lists/x_games

www.egroups.com/group/—sTrAnGeSpOrTsTuFf-

Links @ **www.netguide.au.com**

HOTSPOT



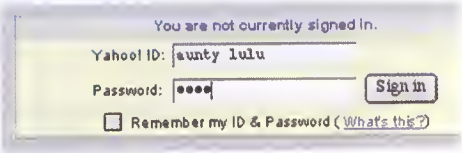
CheetaChat

www.cheetachat.com

Cheetachat is a full-featured yet free chat client for Yahoo and Ichat. All the features you're likely to want are here: chat room management, buddy lists, smiley's, and sound effects. It also has some interactive features, including macros, text fading, file transfers, colours and emotions. Easy to use, the logical interface and status line tips make it extremely user-friendly. At only 3.77MB it's hard to believe all the features fit in. This program will get you hooked in no time.

Yahoo! Chat

chat.yahoo.com



Yahoo Chat is one of the biggest chat sites on the web, and it's full of features. Three different sorts of chat: HTML, Java and Voice. Voice chat is addictive, and best of all there's no configuring any settings just as long as you have a microphone, speakers and a soundcard. As well as having a load of celebrity chats, Yahoo Chat has gone local with Australian Chat. It's navigation bar makes it easy to take advantage of all the user rooms. Yahoo Chat isn't moderated, so all you'll need is a Yahoo ID to participate - which is free.

Spacechat

www.spacechat.net

If IRC is your thing and you don't want to download a complicated IRC client, then Spacechat is the answer. Spacechat is a Web based IRC client that features many of the useful tools you'll need to be up and chatting with people all over the world in double-quick time. It's not a space-grabber and with a little practice you'll feel like a master chatter.

Ninemsn Chat

chat.ninemsn.com.au

Ninemsn's Chat community is one of the fastest growing chat sites. Unlike other rooms, ninemsn is

moderated, so troublemakers will be kicked out by an operator. Special guest chats occur almost daily, with special guests from many of Channel Nine's TV shows. The chat rooms range in subject matter to cater for most tastes and interests. There's plenty of rooms to choose from. And if you're having any problems, the helpdesk is available nightly from 7-11pm AEST.

Chat City

chatcity.com.au

Ozemail's Chat City is one of the oldest chat sites based in Australia. The actual design is meant to impart an old fashioned look and feel, and it works well. The attractive interface is simple to use with one click navigation. For first time users there's a guide that will run you through the functions and teach you the basics of Chat City. You can also create private rooms, as well as an instant messenger. If you want to chat locally, this could be your answer.

Mirc

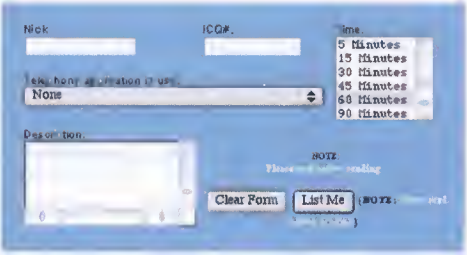
www.mirc.com

Mirc is the world's most popular Internet Relay Chat (IRC) client. Mirc provides a user-friendly interface to use for IRC. The IRC network is a virtual meeting place for people all around the globe. To chat, all you need to do is click connect, join the room you wish to contribute to, and chat away. As you become more experienced with Mirc you can customise some options, like colours, sounds, aliases, fonts, and scripts. There's also plenty of documentation at hand if you need any help.

ICQ Chat

www.icq.com/community/chat.html

ICQ chat is probably already on the computers of anyone who's given chat a passing thought. To invite all your ICQ buddies on a real time chat, just right click their name, click CHAT, then click Join Session, and there you go - a multi chat speak with all your buddies in real time. If you want to chat about a specific topic go to the ICQ Community chat site, and enter the name of the topic you want to talk about. Then simply wait for a person with the same interest to join your chat. It shouldn't take long. Or you could also join an existing chat room in one of the hundreds already underway.



Chatrooms & Newsgroups

www.topica.com/lists/chat_symbols

www.egroups.com/group/icqml

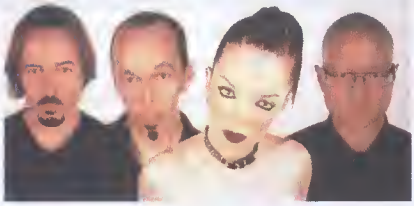
Links @ **www.netguide.au.com**

HOTSPOT

Garbage.com

www.garbage.com

Whoever thought "garbage" would be registered as a domain name? Garbage are the stadium rockers of the future, and this site proves just how well they present themselves. There's everything you would expect from an official site - news, pictures, tour dates and a discography. You can even join a fan club and go into the draw to win some great prizes.



Swys' AC/DC Page

www.hellsbells.net

From rockers of the future to rockers of the past. Swys' AC/DC Page contains just about all the information you will ever need on AC/DC. The site includes tour dates, although this focuses only on the US. Swys has also painstakingly collected the lyrics to every AC/DC song. There are excellent photos of AC/DC in the midst of live performances and the site is comprehensive enough to keep you for quite a while.

The U2 Zone

www.theu2zone.com

Okay, so they said they wouldn't play any more stadium rock, but this Irish band staged the most expensive stadium tour ever - PopMart. Visit the U2 Zone for a revealing look at Bono, The Edge, Larry Mullen and Adam Clayton. The news on this site is updated regularly and new photos are continually posted on the homepage. You can even get regular updates on the band and the site contains one of the best U2 discographies ever seen.

Rem HQ

www.remhq.com

This site is the official headquarters of REM. The band explain they're proud to

be one of the last in the world to have a Web site - done as it is in a minimalist style with few photos. Concentrating on REM's music and news about the band, the site includes an REM store. You also have the opportunity to join the fan club. REM devotees have always been a little different. So is this site.

Dan's Pearl Jam Page

www.pearl-jam.com

If you can't get enough of Pearl Jam but your parent/partner/sibling complains if you play it at eight o'clock in the morning - or at any time - visit Dan's Pearl Jam Page. It's not the official Pearl Jam website but focuses on photographs of the band members and hard news, such as summaries of concerts and appearances. Of course, the site includes tour dates and links to other sites devoted exclusively to Pearl Jam.

Ozrock.com — The Australian Unsigned Artist Resource

www.ozrock.com

Most sites feature bands that are already hugely successful, but Ozrock is for bands unsigned to record labels. There is a news-orientated section with photos of bands that have done well at concerts and music competitions. The site features bands that have been working hard towards their goals and those that are just starting out. Rock is not the only genre the site caters for but it is fair to say that rock is dominant.

Dial-The-Truth Ministries

www.av1611.org

Did you know that the life expectancy for your average American rock star is 36.9 years? Dial-The-Truth Ministries is a religion-based organisation citing the dangers of rock music. The site tells us that rock music has propagated the Devil's number, 666, for years. It also highlights some of the "disgusting" lyrics of bands and singers like the Backstreet Boys and Britney Spears: apparently one Backstreet Boys' song is about trying to take a young woman's virginity.

Chatrooms & Newsgroups

www.topica.com/lists/KornRockMusic

www.egroups.com/group/Aor-Mafia

Links @ **www.netguide.au.com**

HARRY POTTER

HOTSPOT

Meet Harry Potter

www.scholastic.com/harrypotter/index.htm

The Potter book series has sold more than 18.5 million copies worldwide. This is the publisher's site. If you missed the online chat with the author J.K. Rowling, you can read a transcript. She reveals that in the current book, Harry goes to the Quidditch World Cup, and you also find out about some other Wizardry schools. Rowling, who says she has been writing since she was six years old, has also signed a movie deal with Warners.

Harry Potter's Web site

www.okukbooks.com/harry/body.htm

The exciting graphic on the opening screen suggests you are in for some fun here, but it's really designed to get you to buy more of Rowling's books. You can read the opening chapter of The Chamber of Secrets but the most interesting part is Rowling's life story. There are parts we can all relate to. She hated school and her teacher frightened the life out of her. "She gave me an arithmetic test on the very first morning and after a huge effort I managed to get zero out of 10 - I had never done fractions before. So she sat me in the row of desks on her far right. It took me a few days to realise I was in the 'stupid' row."

Harry Potter Net

www.harrypotternet.co.uk

Restless kids will be kept busy with a quiz (such as 'what is JK Rowling's real first name?' and 'what is the wizarding name for normal humans?'). Then send them to the download section where there's a game based on Quidditch, a screensaver and computer wallpaper - all to download free. If as a parent you are confused by all the jargon, there's a helpful dictionary or glossary (Quidditch is a wizard game played with broomsticks).

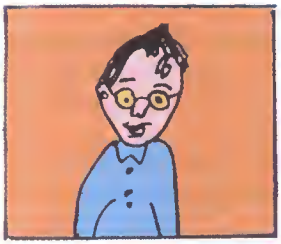
Unofficial fan club

www.geocities.com/EnchantedForest/Mountain/5101/

You need to scroll down to get to the good stuff such as book extracts, a cover gallery and news. Fans have sent in stories and poems inspired by the book and someone has even done a play called "Spellbound". Keep scrolling and you'll find more fun, including colouring pages, bookmarks and postcards.

Our Harry Potter pages

edleston.primaryresources.co.uk/projects/harry/harry.htm



Enthusiastic primary school children have drawn pictures of the characters in Potter's books. You'll need the Flash plug in to fully see the first page (www.macromedia.com) There's also a quiz and some activities drawn up by the teachers. For teachers, there are some lesson plans incorporating the Potter book series. Have a look at the school's main site too – a lot to be learned by primary schools at this one. The kids really look like they have fun here!

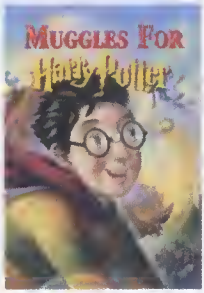
The Wonderful World of Harry Potter

www.homestead.com/harrypotter2/home.html

Keen young readers, inspired by the books, are now pestering their parents to find more like it. This site recommends other similar books. There's a print-out section where children can make paper dolls and do word puzzles.There's also a Quidditch game you can download. It's typical of Potter fan sites out there - the heart is in the right place even if all the Html isn't!

Muggles

www.mugglesforharrypotter.org/



This group is fighting moves to ban Harry Potter books in schools suggested because Harry and his friends use witchcraft. Others believe the books are too violent. This group argues that restricting the use of books children want to read violates, at least in the US, their First Amendment rights and helps produce an illiterate society. So far, Harry Potter books have been challenged in at least 13 states, according to the American Library Association.

Chatrooms & Newsgroups

www.topica.com/lists/Hpotter

www.geocities.com/harrypotterfans/chat.html

Links @ **www.netguide.au.com**

HOTSPOT

Bubba's Axolotl Website

www.fortunecity.com/roswell/chupacabras/4/calixto.htm

Our Bubba sure knows a lot about axolotls (also known as Mexican walking fish). Bubba's first axolotl was a feisty beast called Calixto. Since then he's added more of the creatures to his menagerie. This site has excellent sections on axolotl health and the varieties of axolotls, and Bubba recently added a frequently asked questions page to answer all your queries. The photos on this website are absolutely terrific. Go there now!

The FrogPond

www.frogpond.org

Fish are not the only animals that can live in aquariums — there are axolotls, penny turtles, salamanders... and frogs. This is a highly recommended site for anyone who loves frogs. There is a large section of frog photography and a list of many frog species. The FrogPond also has a definitive list of links for frog-lovers and a special page that features photographs of frog owners. If you love frogs visit the FrogPond — you will not be disappointed.

Aquarium Online Australia

www.nosa.com.au/aquarium

This site is devoted to the Australian fish-keeper. Sick of your fish dying all the time? This site may have the solution because it has a special page about starting your aquarium. There is also a thorough section on fish species and their general care — nutritional, medical and otherwise. The site is being upgraded constantly and Aquarium Online is seeking people to contribute

photographs to the site. There is even a marketplace if you want to buy or sell your fish-related produce.

Rainbow Fish Online

www.ecn.net.au/~atappin/Contents.htm

The Australian rainbow fish is our country's best-known aquarium fish. They inhabit aquariums the world over and prefer slightly brackish water. This site has detailed sections on how to care for your rainbow fish and the species' biology. There is also a species guide which lists every rainbow fish available. The site's logo is a cute little rainbow fish outline drawn in rainbow colours — simple yet effective.

Acquario di Genova (Genoa Aquarium)

www.acquario.ge.it

The city of Genoa in Italy has a great maritime tradition — Christopher Columbus was born here. The city also boasts the largest aquarium in Europe. You can access either the Italian or English version of this site for a behind-the-scenes look at the aquarium, a virtual tour or a visit to the teachers' section. There is also a section on entry fees and opening times, so if you are planning to visit Genoa all you need to do is go to this site to learn about its wonderful aquarium.

Diamondback Terrapins

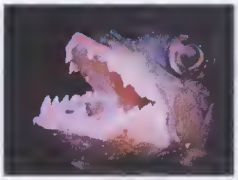
www.geocities.com/EnchantedForest/Creek/4046

Turtles are aggressive little creatures and here you can find information about how to care for terrapin species. The species guide is excellent and there is a range of

high-quality colour photographs throughout. The site contains information about turtle diseases, a questions page and some nifty graphics and design. There is a links page which will enable you to gauge the prices of turtles in the United States, to see if you're paying too much here.

The Piranha Zone!

www.geocities.com/Heartland/Hills/6993



If turtles are aggressive then piranhas are just plain dangerous! Some cool music accompanies The Piranha Zone! introduction page and stays with you throughout the site — the screaming woman is a trendy add-on. The site contains information about the piranha's wild habitat and feeding methods — they ambush smaller fish — and gives you some solid tips for looking after your vicious carnivore (i.e. do not stick your hand in the tank — they may mistake it for food).

Chatrooms & Newsgroups

www.topica.com/lists/Aquaria-Freshwater

www.egroups.com/group/DIY-Aquariums

Links @ **www.netguide.au.com**

Travelmate

www.travelmate.com.au

TRAVELMATE TAKES THE HASSLE out of planning a road trip by offering all the resources you will ever need in one place, including maps, accommodation, tips on where to go and what to see, and how to keep the kids happy until you get there.

The site features an easy-to-use trip planner that generates customised road maps, turn-by-turn driving directions and an estimate of trip distance and driving time. It even gives you petrol prices and a list of nearby attractions along the way. And it can all be printed out and taken with you.

There is an extensive listing of holiday lodging around the country, including hotels, motels, B&Bs and hostels, all of which can be booked online for no extra charge. For those seeking a bargain, there's a holiday auction facility where users can bid for discounted accommodation rates, restaurant packages, activities and tours.

Travelmate also includes a wealth of information on what to do once you arrive at your destination, including details of local restaurants and bars, activities, transport and tours. There is even a travel chat area so you can get first-hand advice from other seasoned travellers. / **JAMIE SILVER**

HOMEGROWN

SEND DETAILS TO
editor@netguide.aust.com

NEW OZ SITES

Internet radio Radio Raw **www.radioraw.org (Sydney)**
Search engine Melbourne Star **www.melbournestar.com.au (Melbourne)**
Steam trains My Station **mystation.rrdepot.com (Adelaide)**
Online rewards EmailCash **www.emailcash.com.au (Sydney)**
Youth culture Headquarters **www.hq.org.au (Perth)**
Surf reports Coastalwatch **www.coastalwatch.com.au (Sydney)**
International trade Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade **tradewatch.dfat.gov.au (Canberra)**
Gifts Weddings Parties Anything **www.weddingspartiesanything.com (Melbourne)**
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When too much sport is simply not enough

Sports nut and shopaholic, **James Hamilton**, discovers that when you need to show your true (team) colours, distance and time need not be a barrier anymore.

Sydney Olympics 2000

www.olympics.com

For the first time in history the official Olympics web site is equipped with sporting goodies visitors can purchase online. Memorabilia, clothes, bags, jewellery, posters, stationery, trinkets, and all manner of Sydney stuff, if you're that way inclined. It's all accompanied by extensive security and privacy assurances one might expect from one of the world's biggest e-business companies – IBM.

Manchester United

www.manutd.com

It may come as no surprise to Netizens that one of the world's most famous football clubs also has one of the Net's best sporting web sites. And Man U fans the world over don't ever have to feel underdressed courtesy of the club's extensive online shop. You can even buy the "new Manchester United home kit with built-in climate control" — just what the players will be wearing this season, which starts any day now.

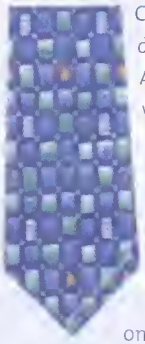
Rebel Sport

www.rebelsport.com.au

One of the country's biggest chains of sports stores has a physical presence in every big city, and now much more! No matter where you are, the sports shop is open, 24 hours a day. The site's "personal shopper service" allows you to quiz the store's experts on their various products and you can order from the site. The online store offers everything for which Rebel has become famous, especially shoes.

Howzat!

www.baggygreen.com.au



Catch a bargain or bowl over a great deal (sorry) at the online home of Australian cricket. "The Shop" is where videos, books, memorabilia, games and equipment are on offer for those who can't wait another couple of weeks for the season to start. The one thing you can't buy here is a real baggy green. Unfortunately, you have to earn one of them.

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Hawaii — where the Pipeline is online

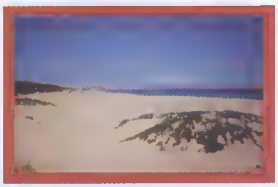
Raewyn White puts on her lei and takes a hula holiday

SEPTEMBER IS LATE SUMMER in Hawaii, an ideal time to explore this island chain. Fly in to Honolulu on the island of Oahu, but head right on with an Aloha Airlines Air Pass **www.alohaair.com/pass.htm** to Honolulu ("the big island") **honolulu.about.com/library/blhawaii.htm**, for a leisurely 4WD drive around the 250km coastline, staying at bed and breakfast inns **www.hawaii-bnb.com/** along the way.

If you start at Kailua-Kona, on September 2-3 you can watch HulaFest 2000 **www.hulafest.com** and the world's largest long-distance double-hull outrigger canoe race **kauila.k12.hi.us/~kchang/desc.html** before setting off on your tour.

Must-sees in the north-east near the city of Hilo, include the 130m Akaka Falls **www.alohajoe.com/akaka.htm**, reached by a gentle walk through lush banks of ginger, tree ferns, orchids, and azaleas; and Waipio Valley **www.thisweek.com/WaipioValley.html** — one of the most beautiful places on Earth — best visited on horseback.

In the southeast, don't miss Volcanoes National Park **www.nps.gov/havo/home.htm**. Take a daytime drive around the 18km rim of the active Kilauea, going to the end of Chain of Craters Road. Walk 300m to see glowing lava flowing down to the ocean **wwwhvo.wr.usgs.gov/kilauea/update/**. Take a short hike along one of the many trails in the park **www.alternative-hawaii.com/activity/biecotr.htm** before heading back uphill for a nighttime gaze at the heavens through the world's largest optical telescope at Mauna Kea Observatory, 4205m above sea level. On the drive back to Kailau-Kona, visit historic temples at the ancient site of Puuhonua O Honaunau **www.hiohwy.com/p/puuhhaoa.htm**, or pause to sea kayak or snorkel, perhaps accompanied by dolphins or humpback whales **www.pacificwhale.org/learn/watchingw.html**, or just take a break and laze about on uncrowded black sand beaches.



Fly on to Kauai **www.kauai-hawaii.com/** to hike, helicopter or raft along the spectacular Na Pali Coast. Gaze into the depths of the 835m deep Waimea Canyon **www.teok.com/waimeacanyon.html**, do the full moon walk to Waimea Falls on the evening of September 8 or take a walking tour through the old Waimea sugar plantation. Visit the endless beach at Polihale **www.visionsofheaven.com/kauaiPolihale.html** and the endangered waterbird sanctuary at Kawaiele. **www.aloha.net/~jhdenny/wetland.html** or swim in warm, crystal-blue surf where green sea turtles **www.scubamaui.com/turtles.htm** may be seen.

Visit the National Tropical Botanical Garden **www.ntbg.org/**, buy lauhala baskets **www.lauhala.com/** and Nihau shell leis at Poipu market, or make a pilgrimage to the place where the hula **www.hawaiianlanguage.com/hula.html**

was born at Ka-Ulu-O-Paoa-Heiau above Ke'e Beach. The islands of Lanai and Molokai **www.molokai.com** could be the place if you feel like a break in a beach resort, are in need of a romantic getaway **www.tropicalislandvacation.com/lanai.html** or recharging your energies, or want to experience some of the world's best golfing **gohawaii.about.com/travel/gohawaii/msublanaigolf.htm** with breathtaking views of the ocean.

Take the one-hour ferry ride to the island of Maui **www.visitmaui.com** in time for the annual Taste of Lahaina food festival **www.visitlahaina.com** which starts with a gourmet feast on September 9 and provides the best of island music.

Continue with a multi-sports adventure tour **www.islandsource.com/adventure/adventure11.htm** of the island, starting by hiking **www.mauihiking safaris.com/** into Haleakala Crater, then cycle **www.bikemaui.com/** or windsurf to the base of the mountain. Walk or horse ride **www.maui.net/~horses/aoh/index.html** to the ocean then kayak, sail, **www.sailtrilogy.com/** swim, surf, snorkel **www.maui .net/~lanikai** with schools of reef fish.

Go fishing **www.sportfishing maui.com** outside the reef, and when outdoors activities pale, head for the city lights of Honolulu **www.honolulu.com** on Oahu Island. It's home to shopping malls, museum, restaurants and nightlife. The best way to see the real Oahu is a four-hour, $1, circle-island ride on The Bus (**www.thebus.org/index.html**), stopping at Waikiki Beach, Diamond Head, the Banzai Pipeline, Dole Plantation and Pearl Harbour. End your trip on a high note on September 15 at the start of the annual Aloha Festival **www.alohafestivals.com**.

more to see

Lonely Planet's Destination Hawaii
www.lonelyplanet.com/dest/nam/haw.htm
Live Web Cams
planet-hawaii.com/gallery/hawaiianeye.html
Hike Hawaii (walking and camping links)
www2.hawaii.edu/~turner/htmc/hi-hike.htm
Aloha Insider
www.theinsider.com/aloha/
Hawaiiana*
www.visitlahaina.com/hawaiiana.html
Events calendars
www.alternative-hawaii.com
Hawaiian Beaches and Activity Guide
www.beachactivityguide.com/index.html
Skydive Oahu
skydive-hawaii.com/
Hawaiian Music Mega Site
www.nahenahe.net/
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absolutely useful stuff

Free software, guides to help you make great Web pages, tutorials that tell you how to do things you thought might be impossible... this is the place to find the most useful stuff Net users need.

Shareware 94
Computers that talk, users who sing and obliterating files

Newbies 98
Emailing with the two big browsers

Help Desk 100
Vikki to the rescue...again
helpdesk@netguide.aust.com

Tutorial 102
Finding people using the Internet

More Useful Sites 107
Web sites you just might love to use

Web Design 108
Creating a news ticker

eBusiness 110
The rise and rise of the e-marketplace

shareware

YOUR GUIDE to free & cheap software on the Web

Bruce Davis-Goff finds that some of the best things in life are still free, like becoming the life of the party, deleting files so no trace remains, and getting you PC to talk.

Vocal Remover

✪✪✪

Platform Win 95/98/NT
Download Direct X
www.analogx.com/files/vremover.exe
Download Winamp version
www.analogx.com/files/vremamp.exe

Be the life of the party with this handy plug-in for removing vocals from a piece of music. The result is what could loosely be called a Karaoke track. Store up enough of them and your PC becomes a Karaoke machine. There are two versions available. One plugs into the Winamp mp3 player, **www.winamp.com** and the other uses Direct X. The Direct X version is suitable for use with any audio editing program that supports Direct X. This includes Sonic Foundry Sound Forge, Acid and Vegas **www.sonicfoundry.com** and Cakewalk Pro Audio from Twelve Tone Systems **www.cakewalk.com**.

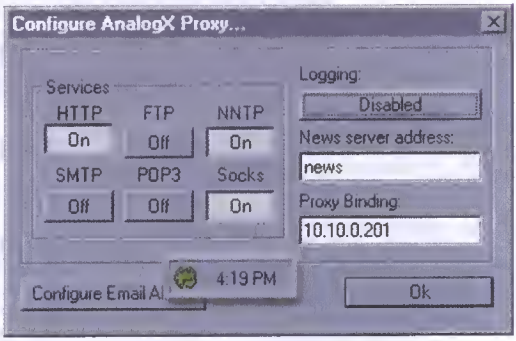
AnalogX Vocal Remover works on the same principle as hardware removers do: in most instances vocals are equally mixed in both stereo channels, and can be identified and removed by changing the phase on one channel by 180 degrees. It won't work with all tracks, but it does the trick in most cases.

Proxy

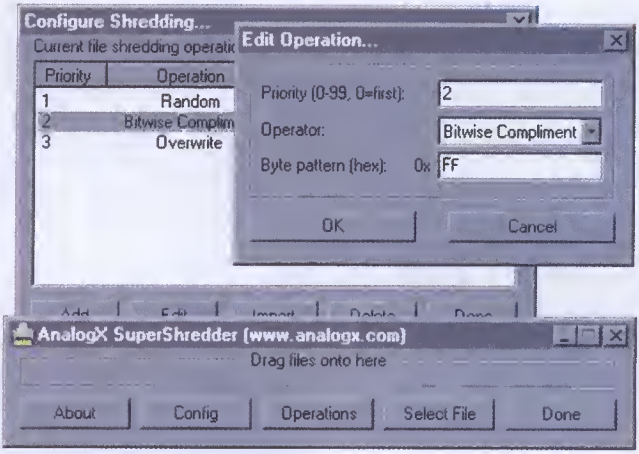
✪✪✪✪

Platform Win 95/98/NT
Download www.analogx.com/files/proxyi.exe

If you have a few machines networked, but only one Internet connection, then what you need is a Proxy Server. This allows all machines on your network to share the same connection. AnalogX Proxy is a small, simple



server that allows any machine on your network Net access through a central machine. Simply run Proxy on the machine with the Internet connection; configure the other machines to use this proxy and you're away. It supports all the important protocols; HTTP (Web), HTTPS (secure Web), POP3 (receive mail), SMTP (send mail), NNTP (newsgroups), FTP (file transfer), and Socks4/4a and partial Socks5 (no UDP) protocols! It works well with Internet Explorer, Netscape, AOL, AOL Instant Messenger, Microsoft Messenger and many more. If it all sounds a little complex, relax, it's easy to set up and configure and comes with patiently explained instructions.



Super Shredder

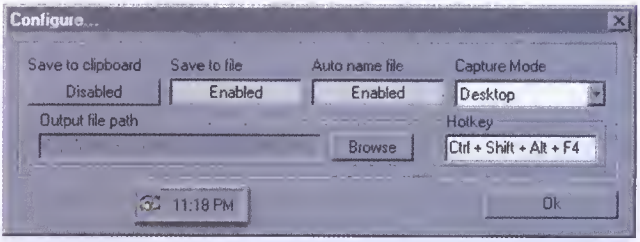
Platform **Win 95/98/NT**
Download **www.analogx.com/files/shredi.exe**

When you delete a file and empty it from your Recycle Bin, the contents can still be retrieved by someone who knows what they're doing, even when the data has been overwritten. Not so important if it's just some useless document but if your data is sensitive then it's vital it gets deleted completely. This is where Super Shredder comes in handy. Super Shredder lets you delete files so no trace remains. It can be completely customised to give you the level of security you need. It accepts files via drag-and-drop, works from the command line and can even add a shortcut to your **Send To** menu inside the Windows Explorer, so it's easy to permanently delete files — forever.

Capture

Platform **Win 95/98/NT**
Download **www.analogx.com/files/capturei.exe**

Capture is a quick-and-easy screen capture utility allowing



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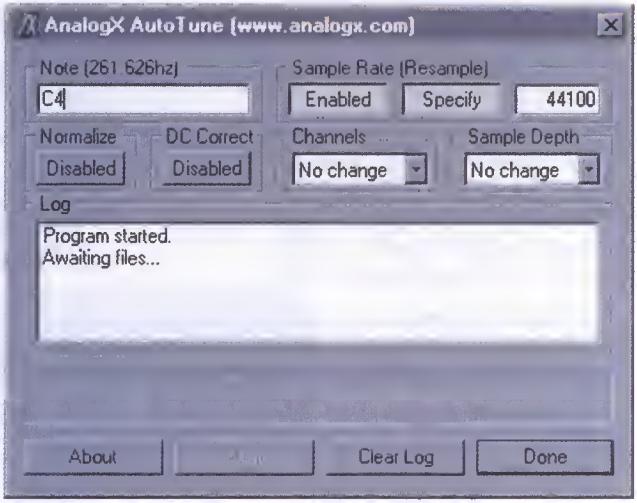
you to capture the entire screen, at any colour depth and resolution, and save it as a Bitmap file for editing. It can capture the whole screen or only the active application window. Capture runs in the Windows System Tray and can take a screen capture every time you left click on the Capture icon. A bitmap will be saved into the directory Capture is running from. Plain, simple and useful.

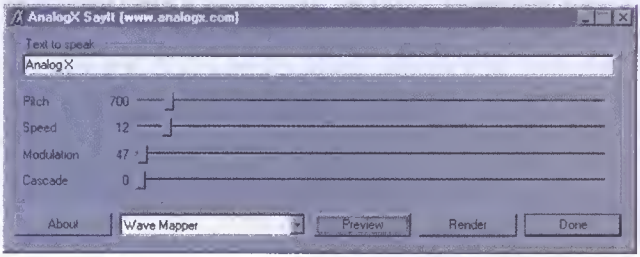


SayIt

✪✪✪

Platform **Win 95/98/NT**
Download **www.analogx.com/files/sayiti.exe**

Macintosh computers come with voice synthesis built in, but PC users have to make do with something like SayIt. Type in a word or phrase, set the sliders, click the **Render** button and out pops a nice little wave file. If you're just playing around, the **Preview** will play what you've selected so you can hear what it sounds like. SayIt outputs 16-bit wave files, and can handle phrases up to 500 characters. With its wildly robotic tones, it's perfect for tormenting someone.



AutoTune

✪✪✪✪

Platform **Win 95/98/NT**
Download **www.analogx.com/files/autoi.exe**

If you've ever worked with samples, you'll know what a time-consuming process it can be trying to tune them to the same key. AutoTune can be used not only to tune individual files, but also to convert entire directories by simply dragging the directory onto the app. It's a very processor-intensive routine so it can take a while for the file analysis to happen. It's also pretty memory intensive, using about 6 to 8 megs of RAM for the average file, so the more memory you have, the faster it will go. It supports mono and stereo WAV files, 8/16/24/32 bit formats and can also normalise and DC correct samples! If all this musical stuff means nothing to you, then it's probably not for you.

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newbies

YOUR GUIDE to email with the two major browsers

Anna Raciti explains how to send emails using Internet Explorer and Netscape Communicator.

THE POPULARITY OF EMAIL now means you don't have to spend big to get yourself a good email program. Many email packages are competing for market share, so most software companies have made basic versions of their email programs available free.

Most of the free programs can be download from the Internet, but what some people don't know is that most PC users already have an email package on their PC. If you have Web browser software installed on your PC, you are likely to have an email package sitting right under your nose!

Basic email programs are built into both Netscape Communicator Suite and Microsoft Internet Explorer. In fact, all Windows 98 users should have a copy of Internet Explorer on their system, including the email program that comes with it — Outlook Express. The Netscape Communicator Suite comes with Netscape Messenger.

Internet Explorer Mail

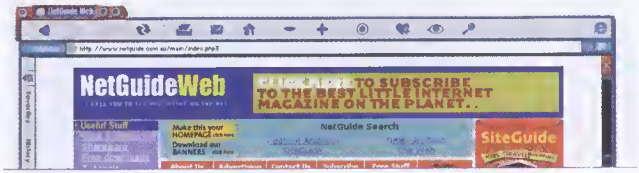
The old and current versions of Microsoft's Internet Explorer feature more than just the IE browser. IE also includes a basic Web page composer and Outlook Express, the simpler, more basic version of Microsoft's retail email program, Outlook.

Outlook Express includes most of the features beginners will need — in fact, this version of Outlook is so thorough that many users will never move to the full version.

Outlook Express greets first-time users with a few easy to understand icons — you can read your mail, compose a message, download your messages, read news on specific newsgroups, or go to your address book. Most of these choices are easy to decipher; if you read your email, you're taken to the Inbox, a folder where you'll find a list of all the messages you have received but haven't deleted.

When you compose a message, you are taken to a screen where you can type in your message and format it like you would on a word processor. Your address book is a list of email addresses that the program helps you monitor. You can also read messages or **postings** sent by other users to **newsgroups.** Newsgroups are communities based around specific topics. You can read postings and post to newsgroups yourself using Outlook Express.

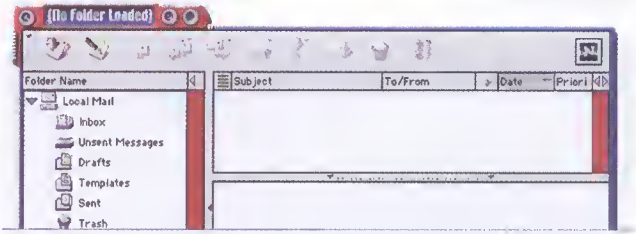
Finally, the **download** option on the main screen allows all your email messages and your postings to hit your PC. To receive your messages, Outlook Express — like your browser and other email programs — must know what server you are connecting to. Express uses a simple connection wizard to help you make your first connection to your ISP's mail server. However, you should make sure to ask your ISP (or check on the ISP's Web site) to find out the correct mail settings.



Netscape Communicator Suite Mail

Netscape's email program is called Netscape Messenger. Although the program is as basic as Outlook Express, it's a little tougher for beginners and not quite as user-friendly. When you launch Messenger you are not greeted with icons, but rather, with a toolbar, and a list of folders including the **Inbox** — it can be difficult for beginners to know where to go from there.

Once you know your way around, however, Messenger is simple to use. You can read your email by clicking on individual messages in your Inbox, you can compose a new message by clicking the **New Msg** button on the toolbar, or download new messages by clicking on **New Msg**. The mail composer looks and works much like Outlook Express: you can type in and layout your email until it's just how you want it.



You can read and submit postings to your favourite newsgroups from Messenger too. Along with the **Inbox** folder, you'll find a **Newsgroups** folder. Once you've specified your ISP's newsgroup settings, you'll be able to subscribe to, send, and receive postings from these newsgroups.

There's one thing to look for before you begin using Netscape Messenger for your email and newsgroups. Unlike Internet Explorer, Netscape does not prompt you with a connection wizard when you're ready to start using the mail program. You'll need to go to **Edit** then **Preferences** on the toolbar, look under the **Mail & Groups** folder and manually type your ISP's mail and newsgroup settings into the spaces provided. Then, you're ready to start emailing.

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helpdesk

YOUR GUIDE to Internet troubleshooting

If Vikki Bland can't find the answer then you're really in trouble. She's at **helpdesk@netguide.aust.com**

Need for speed

I have IE5 and Netscape Communicator installed, but IE5 opens sites slower than Netscape. Is there a way to speed IE5 so I can get rid of Netscape?

In Windows, select Tools/Internet options and the Advanced tab. On the Browsing menu, there is a set of options that let you determine what you want your browser to do (for example, enable page hit counting, enable page transitions etc). Within the Java and multimedia section, if you turn off the options you don't want, then IE 5 will run faster. For example, if you take off all options so that IE 5 is only a text browser, it will run very fast indeed. If you're working on a Mac running IE5, go to Edit, Preferences. (Under Web Browser you will see "enable page hit counting", "enable page transitions" etc.) Go to Web Content, Page Content, and if you unclick "Show pictures" for example, you will have a text browser only, speeding up surfing considerably.

Free Willie

I've downloaded RealPlayer Plus G2 and I've had a go at downloading MP3 music, but seem to have struck a snag. Could you tell me how I play music I've downloaded into a music directory on my D drive? It shows an icon on the D drive display in the name box. But when I click on the box, it wants me to get back on the Net, which doesn't seem right to me.

It sounds as though you have downloaded a header file that points to the MP3 file, rather than the file itself. Some companies only make these kinds of files available so that

Reader Tip: I was having problems installing a newer version of Shockwave so I sent Macromedia an email and they replied: "An earlier version of Shockwave Player is pre-installed with most popular Internet browsers. Sometimes, damage to the Shockwave Player that's already installed can prevent your upgrading to the latest Shockwave Player. This can usually be fixed by uninstalling, then reinstalling, Shockwave Player. You can get the Shockwave Player uninstaller here:
Windows OS **www.download.shockwave.com/pub/shockwave/uninstaller/sw8uninstaller.exe**
Mac OS **www.download.shockwave.com/pub/shockwave/uninstaller/sw8uninstaller.hqx**
After uninstalling Shockwave Player, restart your computer. Then reinstall here:
www.shockwave.com/download/
In some cases, it's actually the browser that is preventing the successful installation of Shockwave Player. In such instances, simply reinstalling Shockwave Player may not work. Reinstalling or updating the browser, then installing Shockwave Player should take care of this." / **TREVOR COOK**

you can only listen to the music from the site, not download the music file itself. If you return to the site, you may be able to find a file you can download.

Frozen out

I can record and play MP3s OK, but when I play a CD, my machine locks up. I've contacted Real Networks, who suggested freeing up memory space, changing the settings for virtual memory and checking my sound card, video drivers and Winsock to see they are up to date, then re-installing Jukebox. I tried all of this, but still no luck.

RealNetworks has identified a potential problem that may occur when the RealPlayer viewer is run. The player may play video in less-than-optimal performance on systems with the display set to 256 colours. If you experience this problem, RealNetworks suggests changing your display setting to 16 bit or 24 bit. Also, there is a problem that may occur when the RealPlayer viewer runs. When you attempt to view with the "Use Full Screen" option, DirectX may change your refresh rate to a speed your monitor does not support. To avoid this, update your video drivers or upgrade to a monitor with a higher refresh rate.

Question of the Month

Fun and games

Dear help desk,
Our computer has a lot of odd problems. For starters, Internet Explorer 5 lost the ability to run Java programs, even after two re-installs. Secondly, we had Outlook Express 5, but it crashed, never to start again. Now our family's email account can only be accessed through Netscape 3 or Eudora 4.3. I also would like to download Netscape Communicator, but so far I have been unable to: I can connect to the FTP server, but it never gets past the "Negotiating" stage.

There have been several instances of this problem (where the registry has become "confused"). The way to fix it is to completely uninstall Internet Explorer and Outlook Express. Delete all the IE folders on your PC. Run Regedit and remove all instances of IE from the registry. (Note: It is very important that you back up your registry first.

While every care is taken with the answers, the publishers cannot be held responsible for the accuracy of the information given or any consequences arising from it.

tutorial

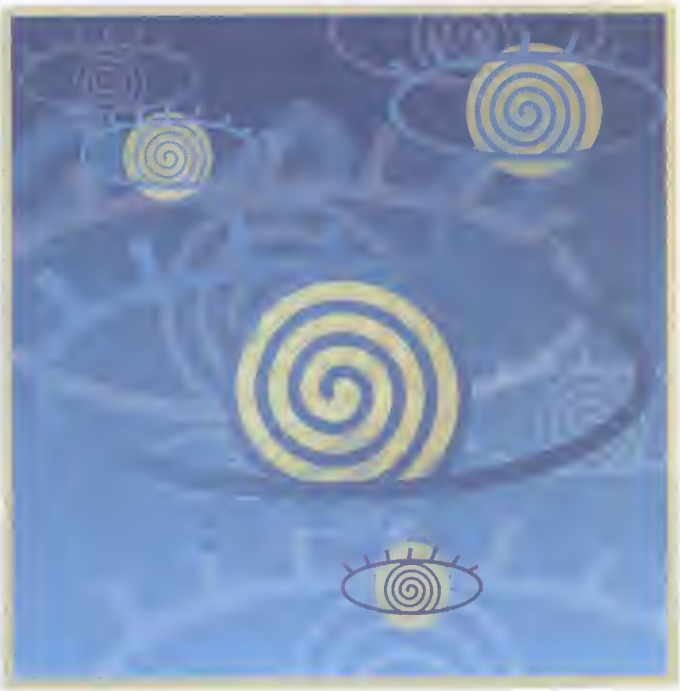
YOUR GUIDE to finding people online

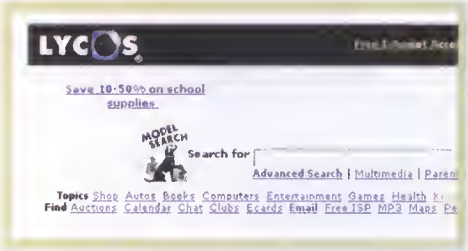
Looking for a long-lost love, an old schoolmate or a bad debtor? Bill Bennett offers some tips on how to locate people, testing search engines along the way.

THERE'S A MILLION WAYS to find people through the Internet and nowadays, it seems every new portal site has a people-finder option. Some Internet search engines allow you to hunt for people's names and in many countries, the White Pages can be accessed electronically. To cap it all, a number of popular desktop applications have added "people finding" tools. In fact, both the Windows and Apple operating systems now have built-in people finders — though as we shall see, these work in remarkably different ways.

You don't need to spend much time looking for people online to realise huge numbers of people share the same name. This is particularly true for common Anglo-Irish surnames, though it also applies to others. The reality is that the majority of online users are still in the English-speaking world and a lot of people in those countries have common ancestors. For example, on one people finder, a search for my name found more than 300 entries.

Another problem is that people's names are not as straightforward as you might imagine. Mr John Smith might be listed a J. Smith, Johnny Smith, Jonathon Smith or Jon Smith. He may or may not have a middle name or initial. Many of the search tools recognise this, and are smart enough to work out likely variations. But software isn't foolproof. An American search



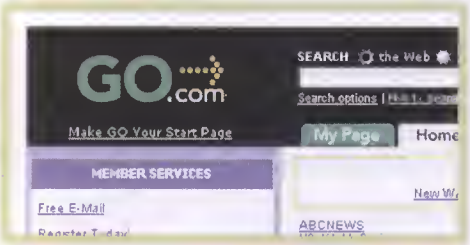


engine is unlikely to know an Australian christened Jonathon might be known to the world as Jonno.

Short and simple

Another example is closer to home. Most people know me as Bill Bennett — but Bill is a contraction of William. It's not an unusual practice to use a shortened version, but the move from William to Bill changes the first letter. While many Anglo-Irish people know this, it confuses others enormously. Few computers are able to recognise the two names are the same.

One of the more frustrating aspects of searching for people online is that many of the search services are US-based. You can easily waste a lot of time hunting for someone only to find that the search tool doesn't include people outside the US. In practice, people from outside North America are generally under-represented in online search databases. This actually represents a step backwards. In the early online era, most people-finder tools were global.



Another factor limiting online people searching is that some people don't want their details made public, so you can't always be sure you've found the right person. Many of the search tools allow you to narrow your search by specifying a city or state (though some only allow you to select US states). This can help, but for it to work the person being searched for has to have told someone where he or she is located.

Perhaps the biggest problem with online people searching is that databases are often seriously outdated. It's 18 months since I had a Compuserve account, but when I searched for my name while researching this story, a number of the tools found it. I also frequently came across a company account that was closed more than two years ago. Most incredibly, Yahoo People Finder unearthed an account I closed six years ago! It appears that unlike search engines, people search tools rarely go back to check that addresses remain valid.

All on one hand

Although it seems there are many ways to search for people online, in reality, there are only a handful of search tools. They're just cut and diced in many different ways. Consequently, the various applications, portals and operating systems offering people search features recycle the same tools and get the same results. Many directories use a technology called LDAP (lightweight directory access protocol), which allows you to search them from within other applications.

On the Windows 98 start bar (either click the start button or press ctrl-esc) is a find feature.

One of the options allows you to find people. Like all online search tools, you need to be connected to the Internet for this to work; however, this isn't obvious from the software.

The program can search your computer's address book as well as a number of online services — the version on my machine shows seven search sites. You either search directly from within the application or click through to the search tool's Web site. When you find an address you can post it into your address book. An advanced search tool allows slightly more complex searching. In my test, the software failed to find my current address. Only three out of seven services could be accessed.

The Windows98 Find software is used by all other Microsoft applications and other programs, such as the Lotus personal organiser and the Eudora mail client.

Test driven

I searched for my name, a colleague's name and my brother (who lives in the UK). The results were not impressive. Only one people search product found a current email address for any of the three. Many of the integrated search tools failed to connect with their respective databases. When they did connect, in every single case they either turned up nothing or only found out-of-date email addresses. This lack of functionality effectively renders the integrated LDAP tools useless.

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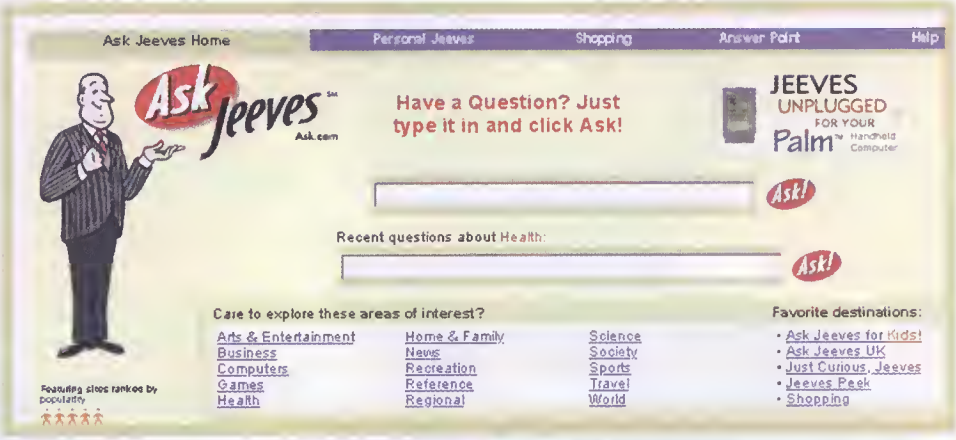

The Web-based people search tools, which on the whole use the same databases, were equally unsuccessful when looking for email addresses. However, I could quickly find phone numbers using the Telecom White Pages **www.whitepages.com.au**

To be fair, some services require people to register before their details are listed. But there's no incentive to do so. In fact, there's a clear disincentive. The more places you register your email address, the more likely you are to be on the wrong end of spam mail.

It seems most people-finder services are designed mainly for US-based users. In fact, they are often designed only to find people in the US. This might make them useful tools for finding people Infoseek **www.infoseek.com**

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Last Minute
www.lastminute.com.au

It's Thursday afternoon, you need a break from your busy routine over the weekend, but you're not sure what to do. This brand new site, which matches last minute buyers of travel, gift, entertainment and leisure items with last minute sellers of such, might just be one of those ideas whose time has arrived in Australia after raging success in Europe. You know the story: hotels, airlines, restaurants, etc have spare "last minute" capacity, and you need a "last minute" escape idea. With 2.1 million subscribers in the UK, spontaneity seems to have made a comeback.

Concorde
www.geocities.com/CapeCanaveral/Lab/8952/e_index.htm

This unofficial site has much of what you might want to know about the world's most famous airliner, including its history, technology, and even

the experiences of its passengers. A link on the home page takes you to pictures and video of the recent Paris crash, and visitors can subscribe to Concorde News, an email newsletter exclusively about the plane. A must for air travel buffs.

Dummies
www.dummies.com

Not just for those who think they fit this bill, but for anyone who wants to know more about certain subjects but is too afraid to ask. Spawned from the outrageously successful books of the same title (remember Windows for Dummies?) the Dummies site is a marvellous online resource for those not wanting to flaunt their current shortcomings. Everything from general interest to technology.

So you wanna do things?
www.soyouwanna.com

What's your big wish in life? Do you want to land a recording contract, write a job-winning resume, or perhaps the next Harry Potter series? Whatever your dream, you can start to follow it here. There's a wide mix of wishes, and be sure to check the Top 10.

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webdesign

YOUR GUIDE to designing effective web pages

Matt Buchanan tells you how to build a Flash new ticker to give your site a feeling of movement and immediacy — just like the pros.

LAUNCH A STANDARD TEXT editor (Notepad or SimpleText will do fine) and type the following line into a new document:

```
text=This is my banner text...
Please make it scroll...
```

Save this document as **data.txt** in the same folder in which you intend to create your ticker. Quit the text editor. At the end, you can come back and edit this file to change the text displayed in the ticker.

For the ticker itself, launch Flash 4, then select **Movie** from the **Modify** menu to edit the default document's preferences. Set the movie size to 468 x 60 and set the background colour to pale blue.

Adding action for effect

On the first frame of Layer 1 (which you should rename "actions"), add a Load/Unload Movie action. In the right-hand side of the frame properties window, select **Load variables into location**, enter data.txt as the URL, and select **Target** but leave the field beside it empty. Your action in the left-hand side of the window should now read: Load Variables ("data.txt", "").

Add a new keyframe in frame 2 of the actions layer, and label it **startLoop**. Add a third keyframe in frame 80 and insert a **Go to and Play** action which points to the label **startLoop**. When our animated ticker reaches frame 80, it will return to frame 2 and continue playing.

Add a new layer below the actions layer and call it **border**. On this layer add a hairline rectangle with no fill, the same size as the ticker movie. Use the **Object** inspector (in the Window menu) to size and position the rectangle exactly — in this example its origin will be 0,0 and its size 468 x 60. Insert blank frames on frames 2 through 80, to ensure the border stays visible for the duration of the animation.

Add a new layer below the border layer and call it **fake masks**. On the first keyframe of this layer we'll add two rectangles with gradient fills, so our text appears to fade in and out as it enters and leaves the ticker. Select the rectangle tool, set the stroke to none, and while holding down the fill colour indicator in the main toolbox, select the small **palette** in the top centre of the drop-down selector. This will open the Colour window — click the Gradient tab to view gradient fill options.

this is what a ...

Gradient fades for definition

The default gradient fades from white to black. Click the black colour chip on the gradient line (it's a small colour indicator with a downwards arrow underneath). Select white from the colour drop-

down menu (just to the left of the word Alpha). Set the Alpha percentage to zero — we want our gradient fill to fade from opaque white to transparent white. Click **New** to add this new gradient to Flash's selection of gradient fills — you'll see it appear in the top left of the Colour window — then click it to select this as the current fill type. Close the **Colour** window.

On the **fake masks** layer, drag a rectangle from the top left corner of the movie, making it as high as the movie and about 40 pixels wide. With the rectangle selected, use the **Object** inspector to size it more exactly, then select **Copy** from the **Edit** menu followed by **Paste In Place**. This will paste an exact copy of your **fake mask** rectangle onto the stage. Drag it by its top right corner over to the top right corner of your movie — if it's 40 pixels wide, it should now have coordinates of 428,0. Without deselecting it, choose **Flip Horizontal** from the **Transform** sub-menu of the **Modify** menu. Click off the stage to deselect everything, and your two fake masks should look something like.

has a white background and black border. Right-click (control-click on the Mac) the text field, and select **Properties** from the contextual menu. In the **Variable** field type /:text — our ticker text will contain the contents of the variable called **text** we defined in our data source. Uncheck **Draw border and background** and check **Disable editing** and **Disable selection**. Select **Include all font outlines**, then click OK.

Text tweens for movement

With the text field selected on the main stage, hit F8 to make it a symbol. Type text.movie in the name field and make it a movie clip. Click OK, then create a keyframe on this layer at frame 80. With the Shift key down, drag the text field to the left so it ends up completely off the left side of the stage (the shift key constrains dragging to 45-degree angles. Right (or control) click on the keyframe at frame 2 of this layer and select **Create Motion Tween**.

Add a new layer above the text layer called **mask**, and place a keyframe on frame 2. Drag a filled rectangle the size of the stage, then add

news ticker could look like running across your site...

Add a new layer called **text** below the fake masks layer, and place a keyframe at frame 2. Off the right-hand side of the stage, click and drag with the text tool to create a long text box — your ticker text will end up in here, so make the box long enough to accommodate it. Type the word **testing** into the text box, set the font and size to your liking and make this a text field by clicking the small **ab** button at the bottom of the main toolbox.

When you click off this text box, you'll notice it

blank frames through to frame 80. Right (or control) click the name of this layer, and choose **Mask** from the contextual menu. We have now masked the text so it is not visible outside the boundaries of the stage.

Lastly, open the **Movie Properties** window from the **Modify** menu and change the background colour to white. Choose **Test Movie** from the **Control** menu to see your ticker go, and consult your Flash manual for instructions on adding it to your Web page.

ebusiness

YOUR GUIDE to online business

Bill Bennett says the age of the electronic marketplace is now upon us, with everyone from farmers to web developers taking part and reaping the rewards.

INTERNET COMPANIES HAVE ALWAYS moved quickly, but ever since the dotcom stocks took a tumble in March this year, the hot buzz-phrase is business-to-business, often abbreviated to B2B.

Part of the reason for the renewed focus on B2B is that business-to-consumer - B2C - hasn't exactly been a success. Right now, the Internet industry needs positive stories. Few purely Internet retailers are making money, or even look like being profitable. Most of the success stories are either small operations targetting tightly focused niches or they are B2B sites masquerading as B2C. For example, IT companies like Cisco, Dell and Gateway all operate busy e-commerce sites, but the bulk of their customers are business buyers.

In reality, many B2B sites have been quietly successful for a long time. They just don't need to make as much noise as consumer oriented sites. After all, their customers are more likely to know where to find them. Some analysts claim the actual total volume of B2B is about a dozen times the total volume of B2C.

Moreover, each individual order is considerably larger. This has important implications. It's easy to hide the transaction and processing costs amongst the small change when you're selling road diggers or large scale enterprise wide servers. It's not so simple to hide these costs when you're selling lingerie, roses or chocolate.

Getting customers

But the real cost for B2C vendors is in customer acquisition. One US estimate puts the average cost of finding a single customer at around $US80. This compares to the average online transaction size, which last year was about $25. To recoup customer acquisition costs, B2C vendors need a customer to come back again and again.

This is why most B2B vendors make money earlier than their B2C counterparts. Reports from the US indicate that while B2C companies have net margins below 10%, players in the B2B space are typically working off 40%. Assuming an average transaction total of $US1,000, the profit on a typical B2B deal is $400 less the customer acquisition cost of say, $200. That means the first transaction makes a net profit of $200.

Compare this with the B2C numbers. The average margin is 10%. Transactions average at $25. So the typical sale will yield $2.50. An online retailer will need to sell a customer 32 items before earning a net profit. This explains why even prestigious brands like Amazon.com are burning cash.

There's another big advantage for B2B. Nobody ever gets excited about a visit to a grommet merchant to pick up a supply of gizmo parts. Most business buyers would simply like to get their unglamorous transactions over with as quickly, cheaply and efficiently as possible.

The hot space

Right now the hottest spot in B2B is the e-marketplace. This is where a number of buyers and sellers come together through a

single trading system. In the past, most companies have traditionally dealt with each other on a direct one-to-one basis. Larger companies have buying departments that spend their time hunting down deals from suppliers. As a rule, the individual buyers form relationships with sellers, and companies buy from a limited set of suppliers. An e-marketplace depersonalizes the process and allows companies to deal on a many-to-many basis. In doing so, it eliminates inefficiencies by closely matching buyers and sellers.

In theory, both sides should do well out of this kind of arrangement. Buyers are put in touch with new sellers and the resulting competition can reduce the cost of purchasing. Sellers get to connect quickly and easily with new buyers and reduce their sales costs, and increase the rate at which they turn products over. More importantly, the whole process takes place instantly and can be totally automated.

Productivity equals profitability

Which brings us to the real point of B2B: the Internet's real economic impact is not so much with those purse Internet retailers flogging books and CDs, but in lifting the productivity of the old economy.

Things don't get much more old economy than the motor industry. Yet, Ford **www.fordvehicles.com**, General Motors **www.gm.com** and DaimlerChrysler **www.daimlerchrysler.com** have built an e-marketplace for car part procurement. Other carmakers are expected to sign up. If all their parts business moves to the e-marketplace, it will deal with about $US250 billion worth of business annually and could reduce car building costs by as much as 20%. It will also make built-to-order vehicles a practical reality.

> Sellers get to connect quickly and easily with new buyers

E-marketplace projects being rolled out in the near future are aimed at smaller businesses. For example, you'll be able to compare prices and purchase personal computers, software, networking equipment, stationary and telephone services through the new markets. Some estimates say this will add as much as 5% to a small business's bottom line.

Not surprisingly, e-marketplaces are forming everywhere. According to a Gartner Group report, there were already about 600 electronic marketplaces doing business by March of this year. Another hot trend is for groups of workers, usually in a specialist niche, to band together and offer their services collectively to potential employers. It's a modern, electronic twist on the old idea of professional guilds.

By Darren Horrigan

The Music Download Battle to the Death

Half time score:

Copyrighters	1
Pirates	1

WHICHEVER WAY YOU PEEL the skin of this Napster music download debate, copyright sits at its core. There's no escaping that. It's the classic confrontation between these fabulous new Internet technologies we've come to know and love, and the time-honoured rights of an individual to their own intellectual property — itself something worth fighting for.

So when more than 22 million people use the nifty Napster technology to download an MP3 file and pass the music it contains to a mate or many mates, is it sharing or copying?

The Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) charged into court representing all the big music labels saying it was copying, without permission, and therefore against the law. Napster strolled to the same courthouse and claimed it was sharing, just like taping a CD or a TV show for a mate, in the true carefree spirit of the Internet, and therefore legal. A US District Court Judge agreed with the RIAA and ordered Napster to cease aiding the practice of file-sharing, effectively a death sentence to the upstart site.

However, a panel of judges from a higher court granted Napster a stay of execution to give the opposing parties the chance to reach a gentleman's agreement ASAP.

Disagree to agree

The legal experts and technology gurus seem to be able to agree on two things: that long-term, Napster has no chance of defending its flagrant abuse of copyright laws, and that once it's present practice is terminated, there will be many more Napsters ready to take its place. And these new breeds, like Gnutella **www.gnutella.wego.com** don't use a central storage centre, have no human managements or place of business, and therefore have no definable person to chase and run into court. Napster gets killed and other pirates take its place. That looks like a lose-lose.

The more thoughtful commentators claim that the music recording industry and the Napster techies should put their heads together and find a "third way" — a social, technical and, above all, legal process by which the artists and record companies get paid for their original efforts, and by which music lovers around the world get to swap their music files. That looks like a win-win.

Is it possible? The legal experts say it is. Napster says it is. The recording industry says it is. Music fans who know a bit about MP3 files and downloading say it is. So why isn't it happening?

Ah, the art of negotiation. A beautiful science made all the more difficult when time-honoured laws and new technologies meet at the same table, each with their own futures at stake.

THE DEBATE IN QUOTES FROM THE MAJOR PLAYERS

"The longer-term solution to music piracy on the Net will only be reached when the major labels make digital music conveniently available to consumers at reasonable prices."
David Phillips, CEO of online music label iCrunch.com

"Napster is going to die...The industry needs to take heart and create its own Napster. That would free them of the shackles of radio and television. The Internet provides the most fantastic, open, viral network for promoting music."
Ernesto Schmidt, CEO Peoplesound

"The significant use of this service is obviously trading copyrighted material without obtaining copyright holders' permission."
Judge Marylin Patel

"This once again establishes that the rules of the road are the same online as they are offline, and sends a strong message to others that they cannot build a business based on others' copyrighted works without permission."
Cary Sherman, RIAA Senior Executive Vice President

"Sharing is such a warm, cuddly, friendly word...this is not sharing, it's duplicating."
Lars Ulrich, Metallica drummer

"If it's not Napster, it's going to be another system that is not possible to shut down. The technology will always be way ahead of the courts. That's clear."
Adam Holiber, Wedbush Morgan Securities

"I believe the Napster technology can help everyone involved in music — including artists, consumers, and the industry. New technologies can be a win-win situation if we work together on building new models, and we at Napster are eager to do so."
Hank Barry, Napster CEO

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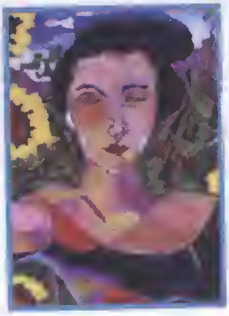
Oddities

by Aunty Lulu

What did I tell you about George? I told you he'd end up face down in the kava, the silly sausage. That'll teach him to put guns in the mouth of a Prime Minister. Anyway, while George can't surf from his luxury prison cell, we can. If you've got a moment, these are worth a peek..

How Do You Rate? www.rateyourself.com



No need for me to go here groovers since I KNOW ALREADY that I rate, but perhaps there's something in this for you. The home page of RateYourself says it all: "the only site focused solely on the world's most important person: YOU!" As if living on the Internet wasn't self-absorbing enough, the site provides a virtual navel you can gaze further into. Go on, indulge yourself.

Fun, fun, fun www.jokeaday.com

There's not enough laughter in the world people so here's your chance to score a bit more. I've too many favourites to mention here, but I'm sure you'll find your own gems. Did you hear the one about the former Brisbane bankrupt who tried to take over Fiji?

Online Sambos www.sandwichdirect.com

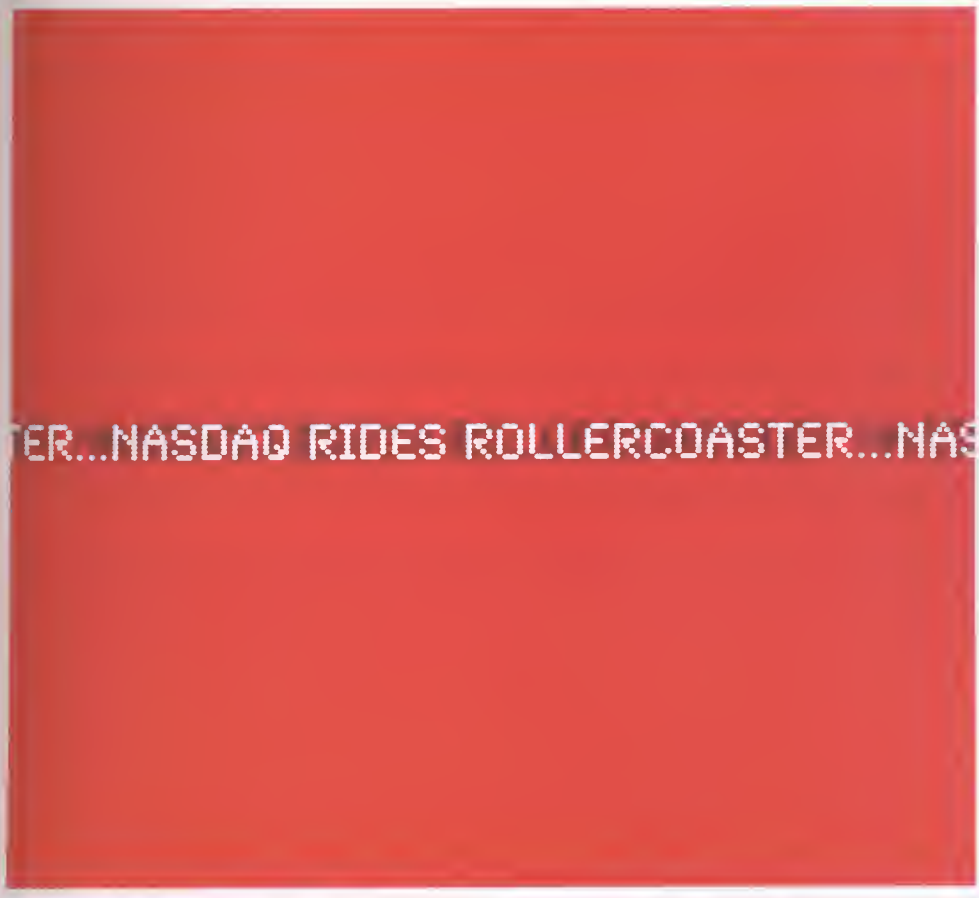
Those of you lucky enough not to have to live in the "Big Smoke New York of the South Pacific Olympic City" may not know that the world's first Internet food service enabling customers to create their own sandwich online was launched recently. Customers can watch their personally created masterpiece

evolve on screen in 3D while monitoring the fat and kilojoule intake. Can you believe it? I don't want everyone else knowing what I'm having for lunch!!

Remember this guy? www.weirdal.com

This one comes from the "whatever happened to..." category. I love weird Al Yankovich. Always have. Anyone who takes the foundation off that loopy Michael Jackson is OK by me. Al actually reminds me of my first boyfriend because they're both as versatile as a Swiss Army knife.

Oh, I almost forgot. The new owner of the Encyclopedia Britannica DVD is the simply stunning Stephanie from Perth for helping us to rate ourselves. And this month, the groover who knocks us out with a true Oddity will pick up a McAfee Internet GuardDog software package. Give me your Oddities by email to **auntlulu@loveable.com**



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